BLADE COMICS
レイン
6
レイン
6
原作
吉野匠
漫画
住川恵
シャンドリスに敗北したサフィール・貴族連合軍。
茫然自失のサフィールはルディックとともに辛くも逃げ延びる。
そして、物語は緊迫高まるシャンドリス軍対レイン・ラルファス連合軍戦へ。
もう、戦は避けられないのか!!!
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原作 吉野匠
(「レイン」アルファポリス刊)
漫画 住川恵
MAG Garden

CONTENTS

Chapter 29 ✣ A memory's transience ····· 003

Chapter 30 ✣ The invincible general ····· 038

Chapter 31 ✣ Ordeal of trust ····· 073

Chapter 32 ✣ A demon's shadow ····· 109

Chapter 33 ✣ The last dinner ····· 117

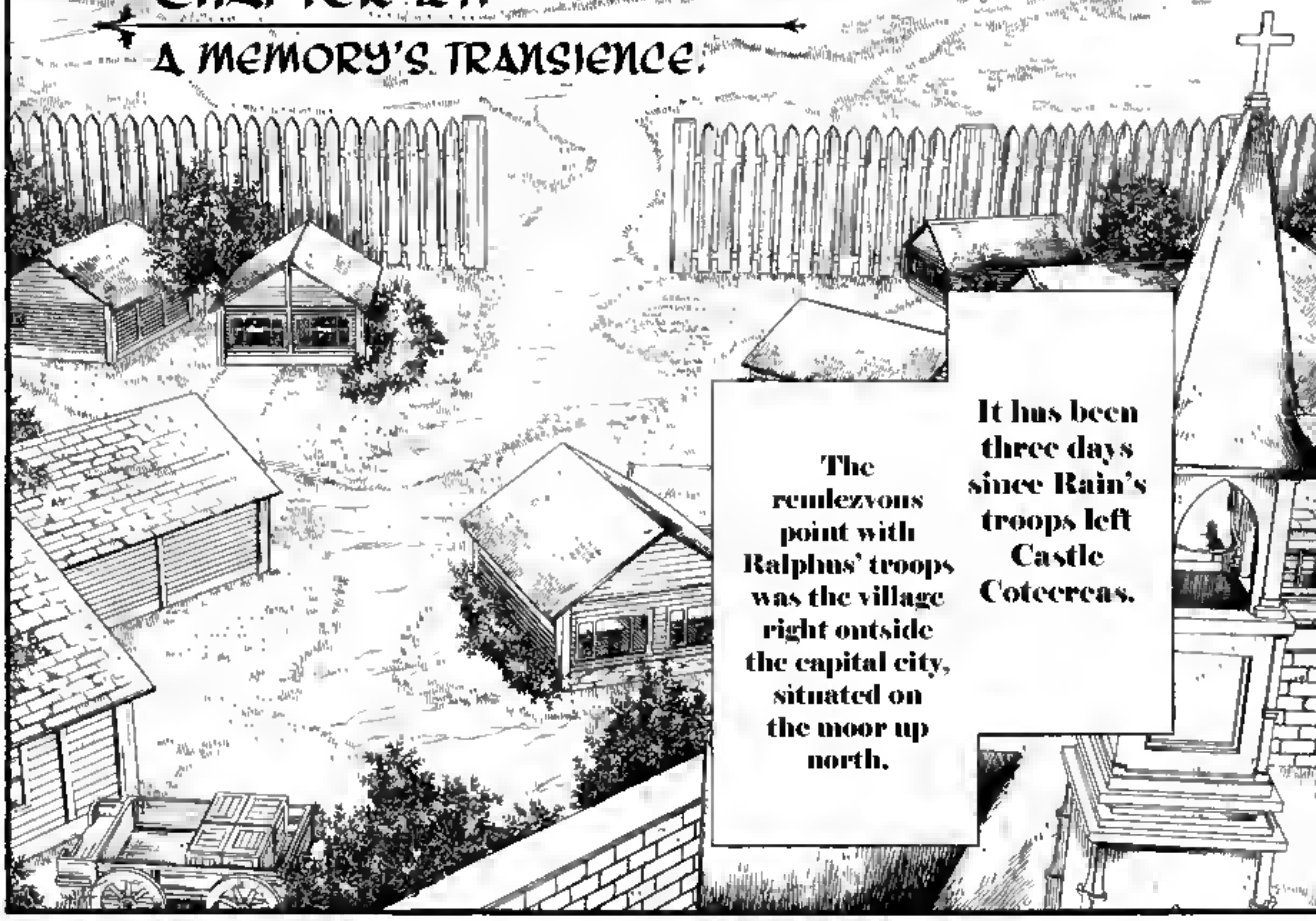
Chapter 34 ✣ The last ····· 117

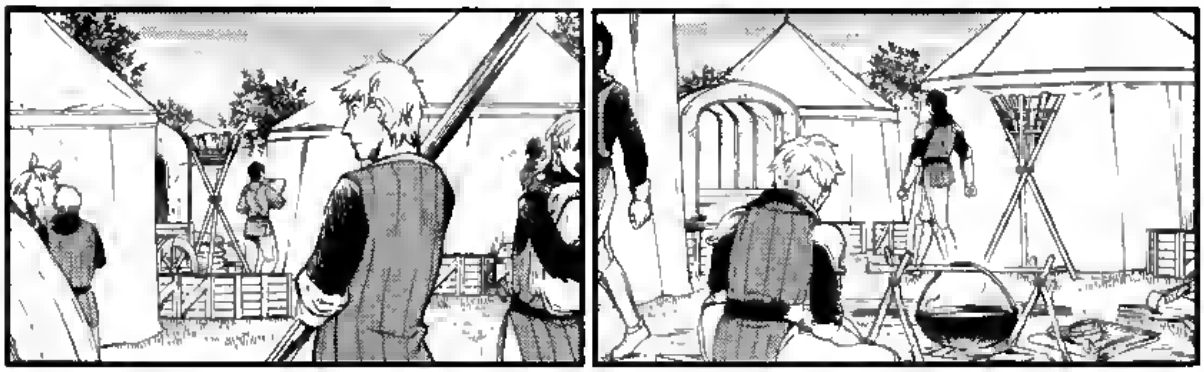
UH...

DID YOU GET THAT AGAIN?
YES...

A DREAM WHERE I'D SEE A MYSTERIOUS *BOY...
*REFERS TO A BOY WHO'S OLDER THAN HER.
LISTEN TO THIS ...
MOTHER.

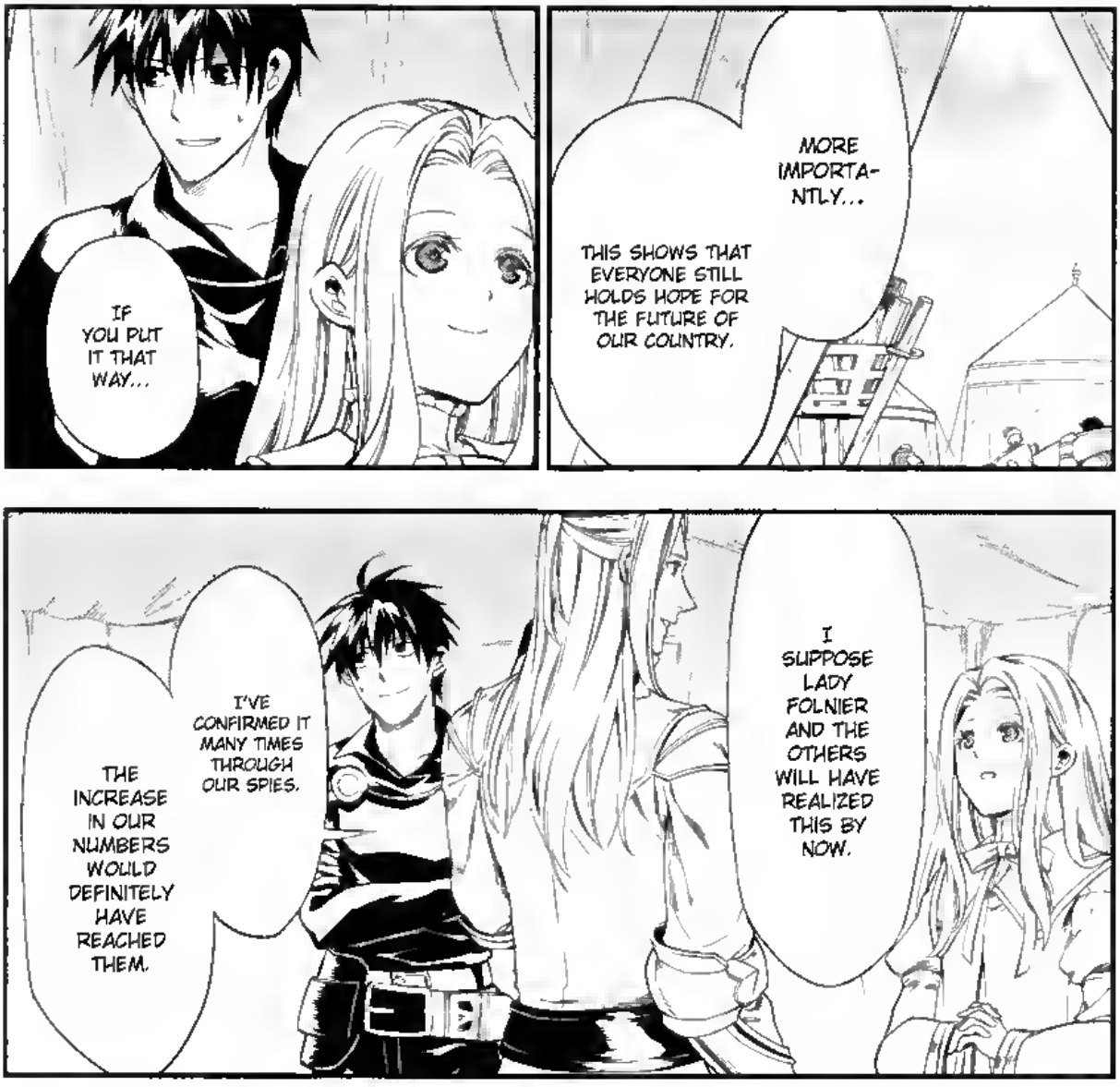
CHAPTER 29.
A MEMORY'S TRANSIENCE.


It has been three days since Rain's troops left Castle Cotecreas.
The rendezvous point with Ralphas' troops was the village right outside the capital city, situated on the moor up north.



LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE AT THEIR BEST, HUH.
WELL, IT WAS MY INTENTION TO DO MY VERY BEST IN MY OWN WAY.
NOT YET! AS OF NOW, WE'RE INCREASINGLY PROGRESSING.
PEOPLE FROM THE OTHER TOWNS THAT WE STOPPED BY ARE GATHERING AS WELL UPON HEARING THE MESSAGE OF RECRUITMENT.
THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING!
EVEN SO, TO HAVE THIS MANY PEOPLE..
JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE?
WELL...IF WE INCLUDE THE ORIGINAL NUMBER OF OUR TROOPS, I DARE SAY...

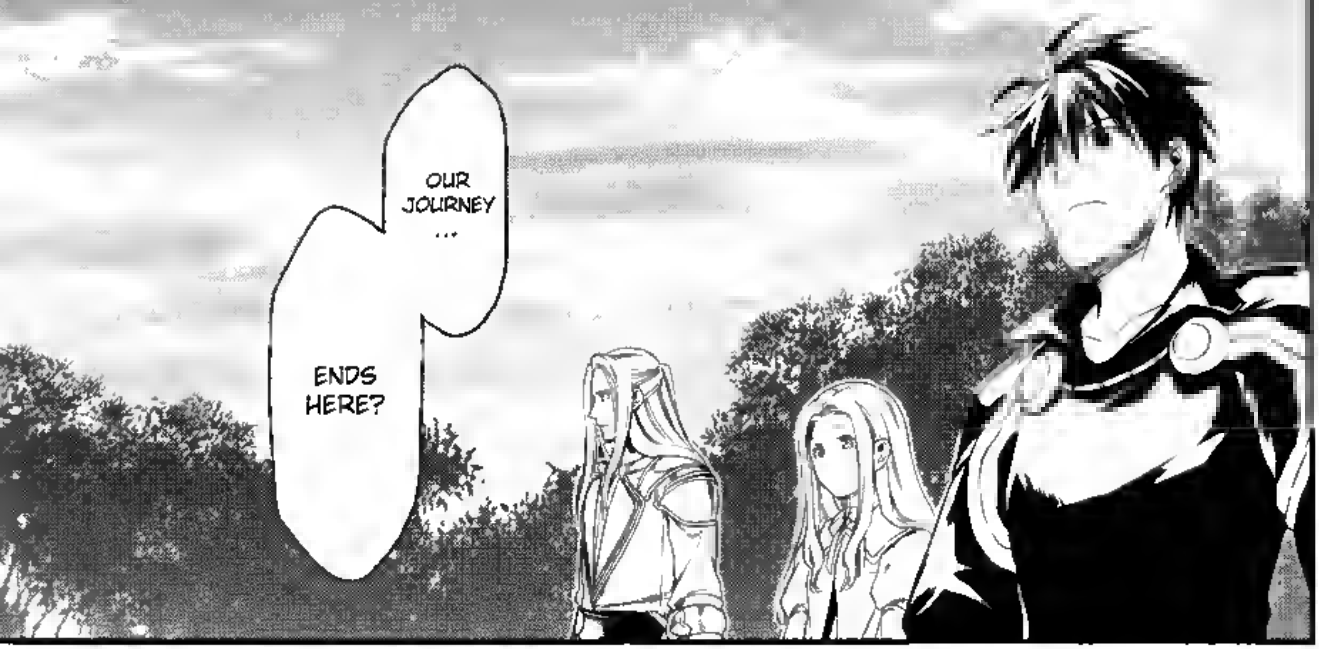
IT WOULD REACH THIRTY THOUSAND.
THIR ...!?
OH MAAAN!! YOUR POPULARITY IS WAY BEYOND EXPECTA-TION!
GOOD WORK!
ばしっ
NOT AT ALL.


IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
MORE IMPORTA-NTLY...
THIS SHOWS THAT EVERYONE STILL HOLDS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.
I SUPPOSE LADY FOLNIER AND THE OTHERS WILL HAVE REALIZED THIS BY NOW.
I'VE CONFIRMED IT MANY TIMES THROUGH OUR SPIES.
THE INCREASE IN OUR NUMBERS WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE REACHED THEM.
AND IF I DON'T?
YOU RECRUITED THEM ON THE BASIS THAT YOU'LL DISBAND THEM BEFORE THE BATTLE, RIGHT? BUT...
AND WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO HAVE THEM DO?

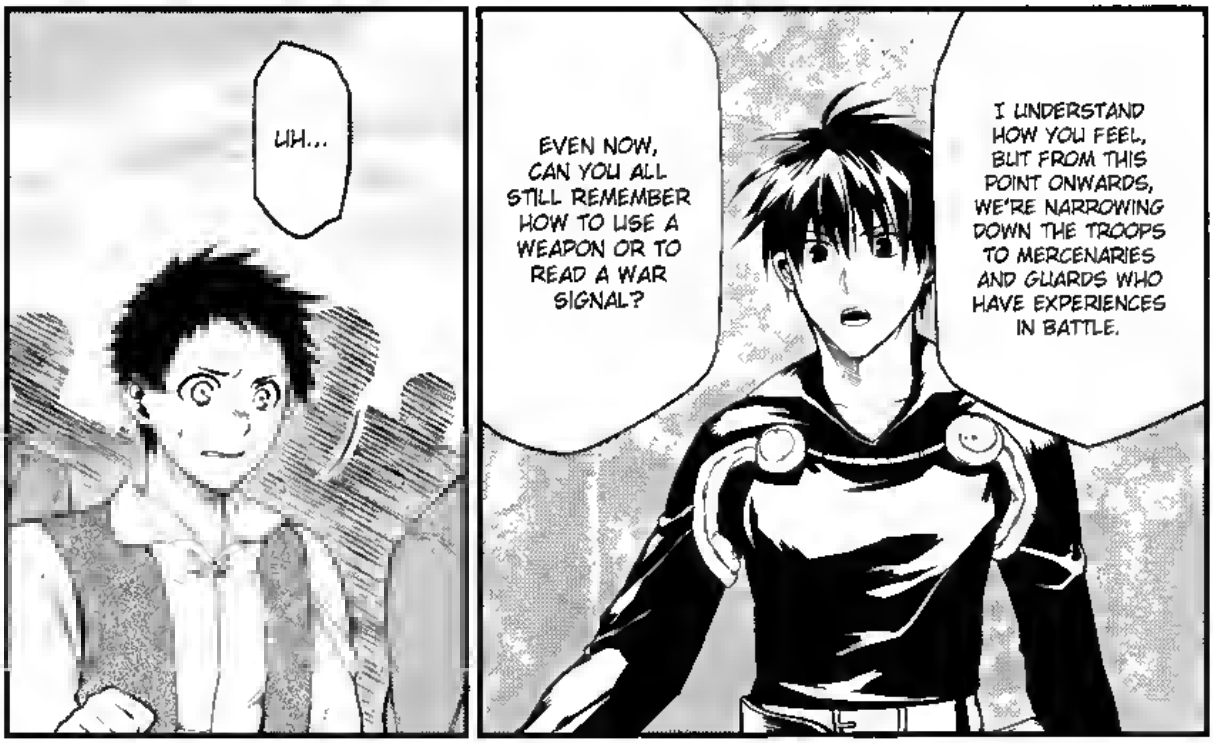
WAIT...
AND THAT ALSO MEANS THAT I HAVE TRICKED THE CITIZENS.
COMPELLING THE CITIZENS TO BLOODSHED WOULD MEAN THAT YOU HAVE TRICKED ME.
CALLING UP THE CITIZENS TO FEIGN AN ARMY WAS JUST AN EXCUSE, WASN'T IT?
...WAS WHAT YOU THOUGHT I'D SAY?
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.
DO YOU HAVE ANY CONSIDER-ATIONS IN MIND?
I'D RATHER NOT.
How about abstinence from alcohol for a month.
THEN AS DESIRED, ALLOW ME TO BEAR THAT RESENTMENT.

I HAVE BROUGHT EVERYONE ALL THE WAY HERE BASED ON MY OWN JUDGMENT.
PRECISELY BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE...
THEN I'LL JUST DO IT AS YOU HAVE PLANNED.
AND I ALSO DON'T FEEL LIKE MAKING YOU BEAR ALL THE RESP-ONSIBILITIES ALONE.
I ALSO HAVE NO PLANS ON BEING USED.
EVEN SO, I PLAN TO BE ABLE TO JUDGE CHARACTERS.
WELL.
HOW ABOUT I SEND YOU OFF TO GUARD A DESOLATED BORDER FOR 10 YEARS AND KNOCK SOME SHAPE INTO THAT PERSONALITY OF YOURS, HUH!
HEY! DID YOU SEE THAT CONCEITED SELF?

I SEE.
EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE A LARGE ARMY, THEY ARE NOT ACTUALLY PLANNING TO FIGHT, RIGHT?
YUURI, STOP TALKING IN SUCH AN IMPROPER MANNER.
THANKS TO GENERAL RALPHUS COURTING THEM REGARDLESS OF AGE AND GENDER, HE GATHERED THIS LARGE AN ARMY.
YEAH ...
AND I HOPE THEY DON'T DISPUTE.


OUR JOURNEY ...
ENDS HERE?

I'VE PREPARED MYSELF! PLEASE, LET US ALL...
THAT CAN'T BE...


UH...
EVEN NOW, CAN YOU ALL STILL REMEMBER HOW TO USE A WEAPON OR TO READ A WAR SIGNAL?
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT FROM THIS POINT ONWARDS, WE'RE NARROWING DOWN THE TROOPS TO MERCENARIES AND GUARDS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCES IN BATTLE.

SO, THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO ASIDE FROM HAVING BEEN THE FAKE TROOPS?
WRONG.
ONE WRONG STEP WILL PUT RALPHUS AND THE PRINCESS IN A DANGEROUS POSITION.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE WOULD BE GETTING OUR PRIORITIES BACKWARDS, WOULDN'T WE?
!?
STANDING ALERT HERE IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE.
YOUR STAYING BEHIND IN THIS PLACE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO BECOME A FORCE CAPABLE OF RESTRAINING SYANDRYS.
EVEN JOE AND THE OTHERS WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD DOWN TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS.

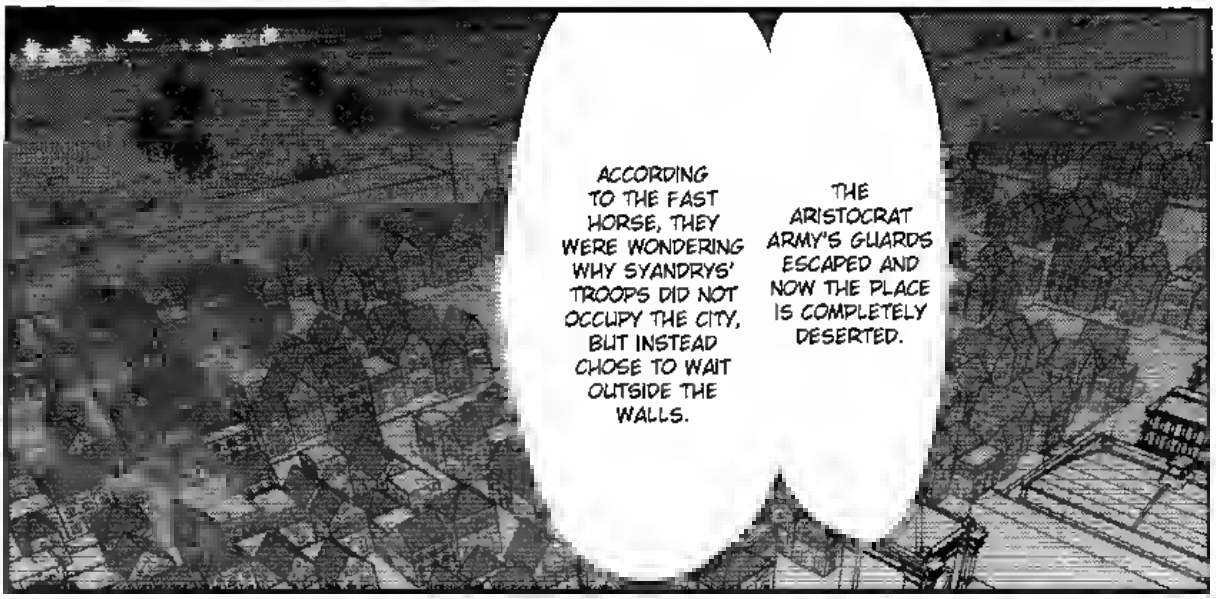
SO, CAN WE LEAVE THIS TO YOU?
TO US, THIS WILL BE A MUCH BETTER SUPPORT THAN PRETENDING TO WIELD A SWORD IN THE BATTLE-FIELD.
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCES IN BATTLE, PLEASE PROCEED TO THE COMMAND AREA.
THEN PLEASE MAKE WHATEVER PREPARATIONS YOU NEED FOR TOMORROW.

GENE-
RAL!
SO YOU
WERE
HERE.

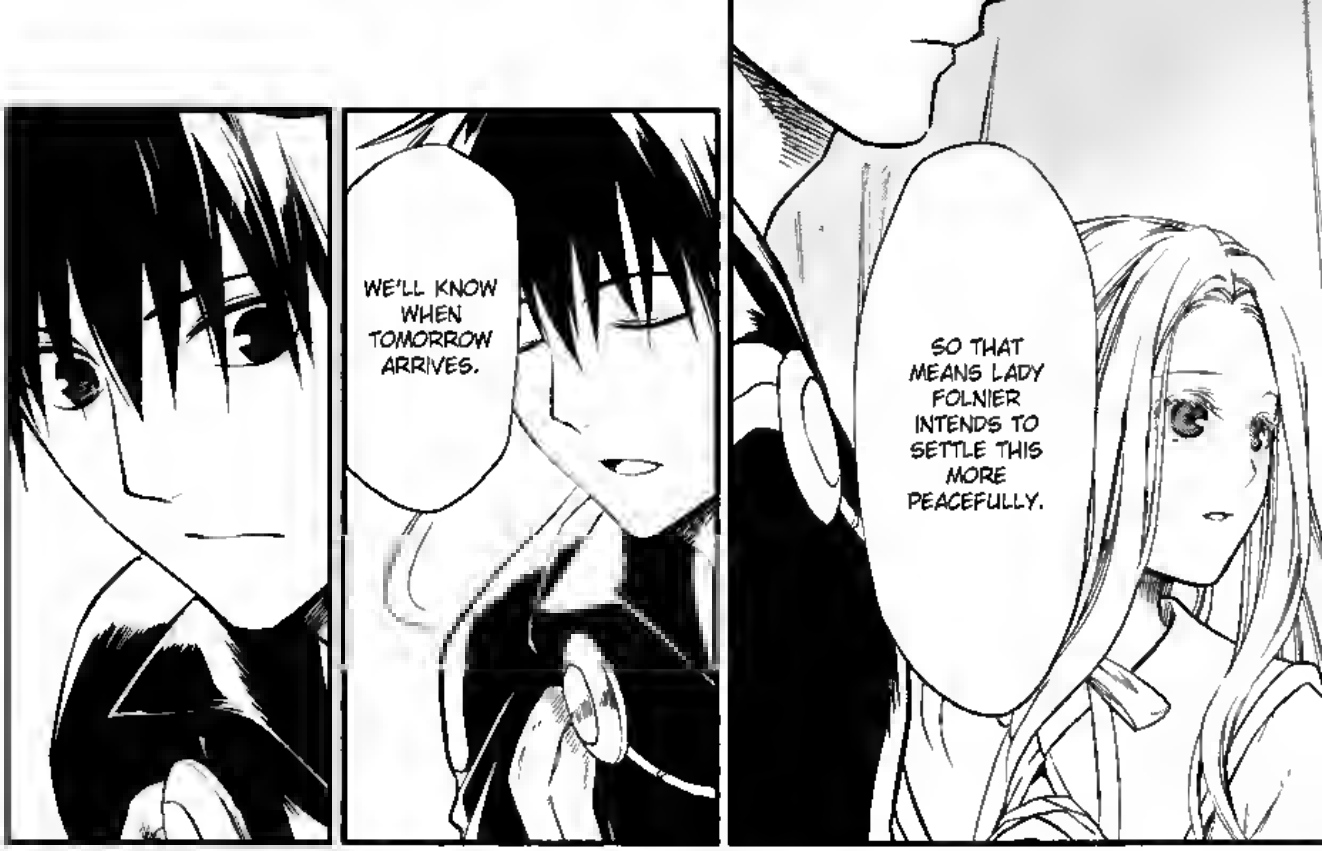
WH...?

WHAT OF THE CAPITAL CITY?

IDIOT!
HE WAS THE ONE THAT PROVOKED SYANDRYS FIRST AND HE ENDED UP RUNNING AWAY?


ACCORDING TO THE FAST HORSE, THEY WERE WONDERING WHY SYANDRYS' TROOPS DID NOT OCCUPY THE CITY, BUT INSTEAD CHOSE TO WAIT OUTSIDE THE WALLS.
THE ARISTOCRAT ARMY'S GUARDS ESCAPED AND NOW THE PLACE IS COMPLETELY DESERTED.

THEY'RE WAITING FOR OUR ARRIVAL.
THERE ARE NO OTHER REASONS FOR THEM TO DO SO.


WE'LL KNOW WHEN TOMORROW ARRIVES.
SO THAT MEANS LADY FOLNIER INTENDS TO SETTLE THIS MORE PEACEFULLY.

STORIES, HUH...
MY MOTHER USED TO TELL ME STORIES WHEN SHE WAS STILL ALIVE.
?
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU CAN'T SLEEP?

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そわ

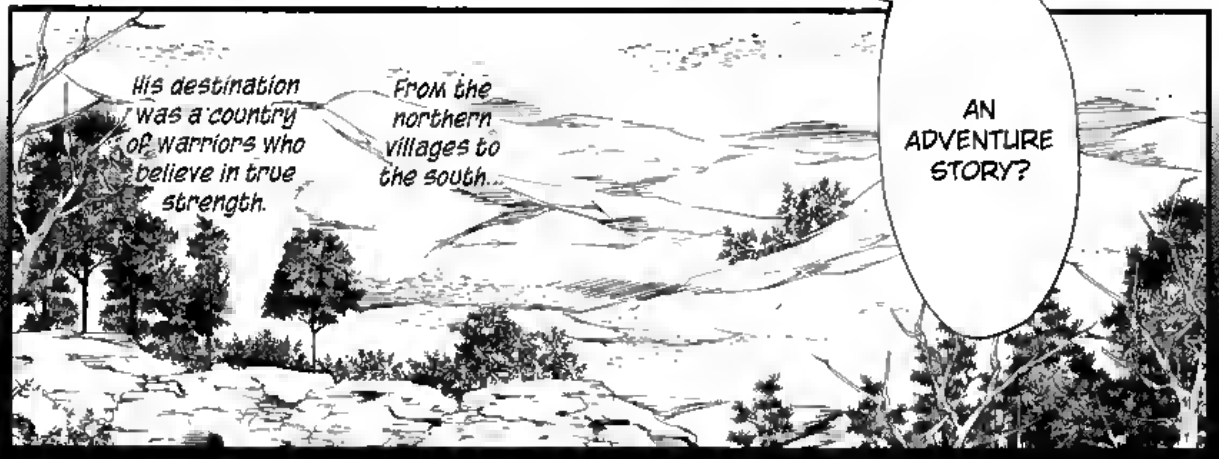
Meanwhile, at Cotecreas.

SINCE THEY HAVE ALREADY PREPARED SO MANY THINGS FOR US, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ LIKE WHAT JUNNA IS DOING?
EVEN IF YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW SOMETHING AS IMPORTANT AS WHETHER THERE WOULD BE WAR OR AN ALLI-ANCE...
はぁぁ

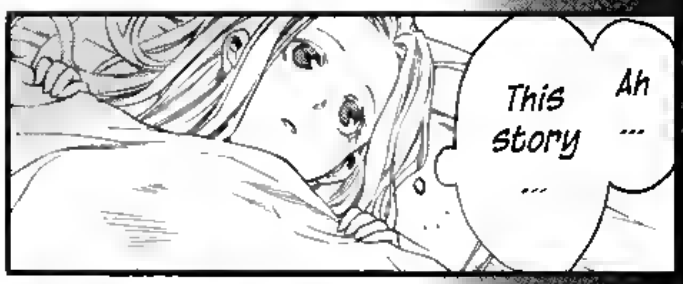
LADY JUNNA, YOU'VE BEEN ENGROSSED IN SOMETHING SINCE JUST NOW...

THIS ...

"A YOUNG MAN DRESSED IN BLACK LEFT HIS HOMETOWN TO SET OFF ON A JOURNEY."


AN ADVENTURE STORY?
From the northern villages to the south...
His destination was a country of warriors who believe in true strength.

It didn't take long for them to gather together and started invading nearby villages.
The men who couldn't earn anything without any fighting suffered immediately.
A long time ago, Mercenaries existed because they were people who didn't belong anywhere. Recently though, there hadn't been any battles at all.
HOWEVER, THEY WERE CLEVER ENOUGH TO MINIMIZE THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE THEY WERE DEALING IN ORDER NOT TO ALERT THE KNIGHTS.
But while they were treading through the snow...
Their captain led the entire troop through the snow towards the forest where the Mercenaries were hiding.
So instead, volunteers from local areas were dispatched to act as their defense troops.


Ah ...
This story ...

FROM THE EYES OF THE YOUNG MAN, THE NEWCOMERS LOOKED SUSPICIOUS TO HIM.

RATHER THAN A KNIGHT WITH NEAT APPEARANCES, THE NEWCOMER LOOKED MORE LIKE A BEAR.

A young man had already cleared everything up.

EBUOCH
OCH

IT WASN'T UNREASONABLE FOR HIM TO CUT THEM DOWN SINCE HE THOUGHT THEY WERE THE ENEMIES.

Thanks to the captain, the young man acquired knowledge about valuable weapons.
The misunderstanding was resolved the moment they crossed swords.
THE BLUE SWORD OF MADNESS THAT ANNIHILATED AN ENTIRE COUNTRY WITHIN A NIGHT...
FROM AN ANCIENT RUIN AT THE CORE OF A MOUNTAIN, THE GUARDIAN WHO HAD BEEN PROTECTING IT EVEN UNTIL NOW.
The boy who easily reached the ruins by foot...
With his new partner in his hand, he went and challenged the strongest.

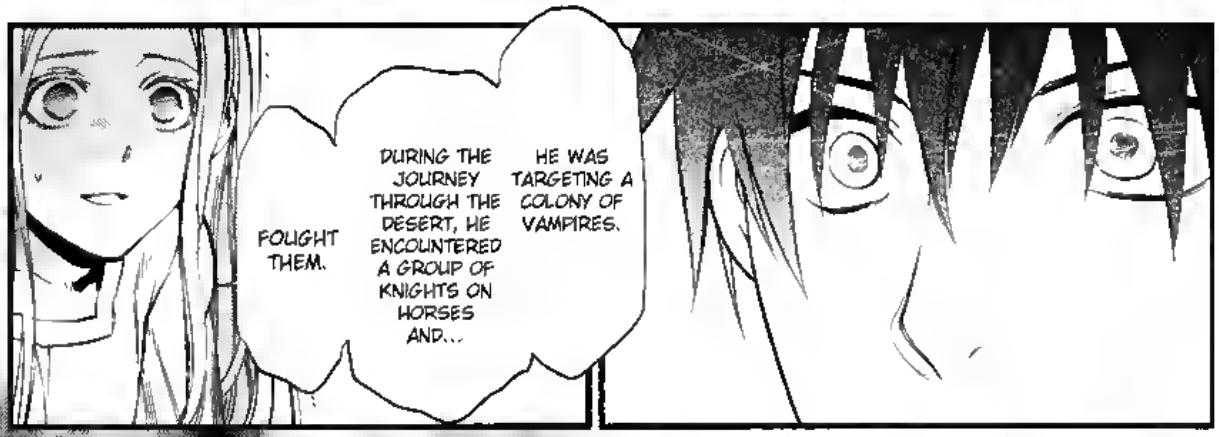
"DIVINE SWORD OF THE WIND"
That was the first time I met someone on a level equal to myself.
The more I felt that I was growing stronger.
The more I held my sword...

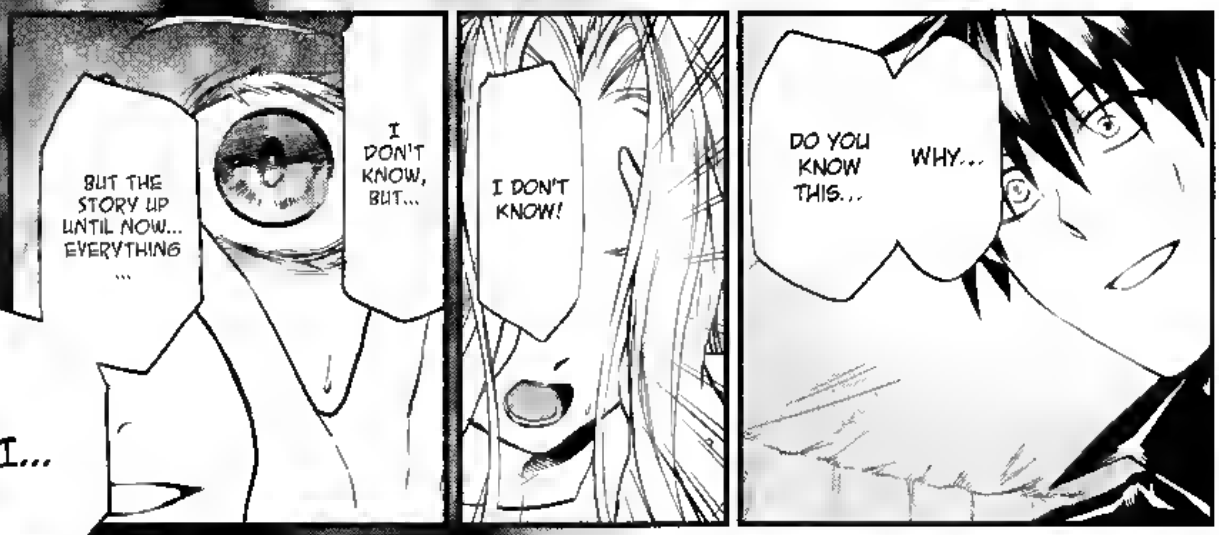
But because of his sickness and age ...
Not to mention their wandering about homeless ...
He failed to take care of the boy he had adopted.
The old man had a heart disease.

IT'S A STORY ABOUT TAKING CARE OF A PERSON.

YEAH.
EVER SINCE HE LEFT HIS VILLAGE, HE HAD BEEN...
SO DID THAT BOY TRAVEL ALONE FROM THEN ON?
...?
NO...
IT FELT LIKE...
I WAS ALWAYS TALKING TO A CERTAIN SOMEONE...
MUST BE MY IMAGINATION.
BASICALLY, IT'S A WILLFUL SOLITARY JOURNEY.
AND HIS NEXT DESTINATION WAS...

VILLAGE OF THE MIST.


HE WAS TARGETING A COLONY OF VAMPIRES.
DURING THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE DESERT, HE ENCOUNTERED A GROUP OF KNIGHTS ON HORSES AND...
FOUGHT THEM.

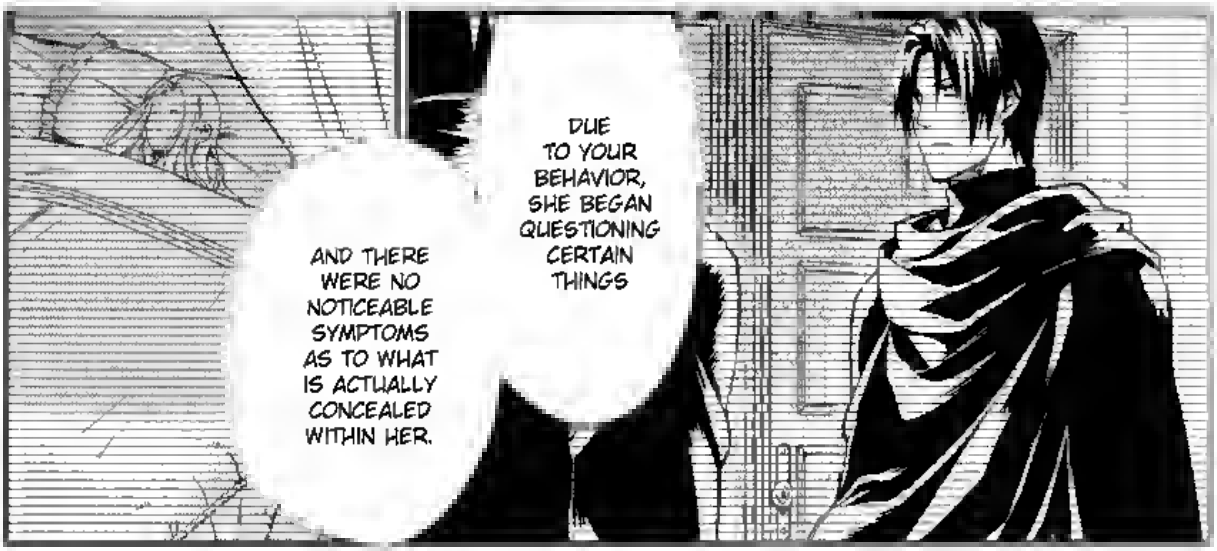

DO YOU KNOW THIS...
WHY...
I DON'T KNOW!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
BUT THE STORY UP UNTIL NOW... EVERYTHING ...
I...

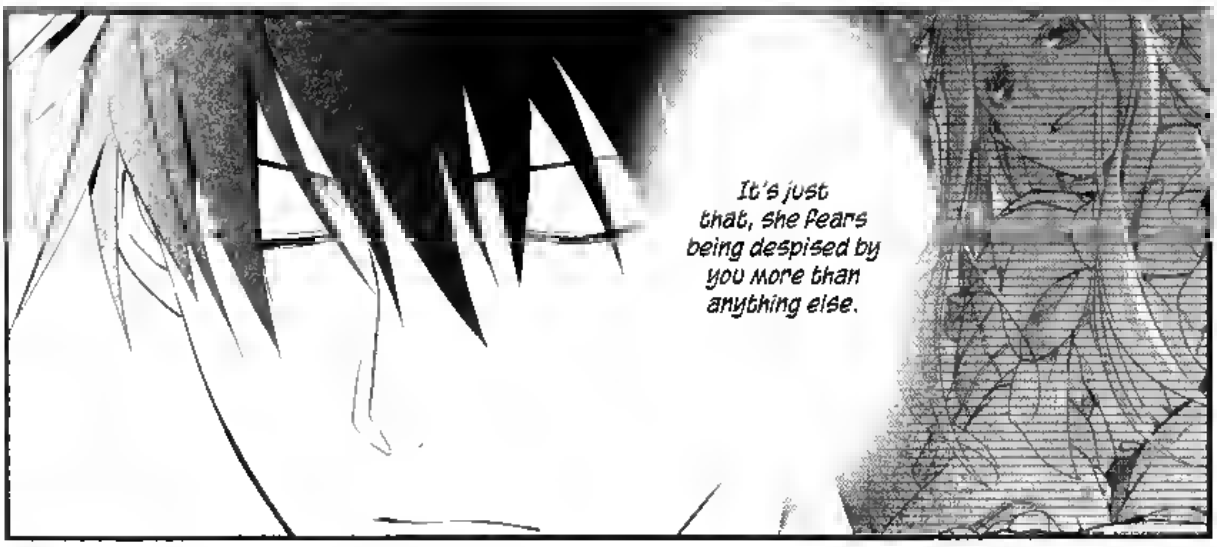
HAVE SEEN...
EVERY-THING BEFORE.

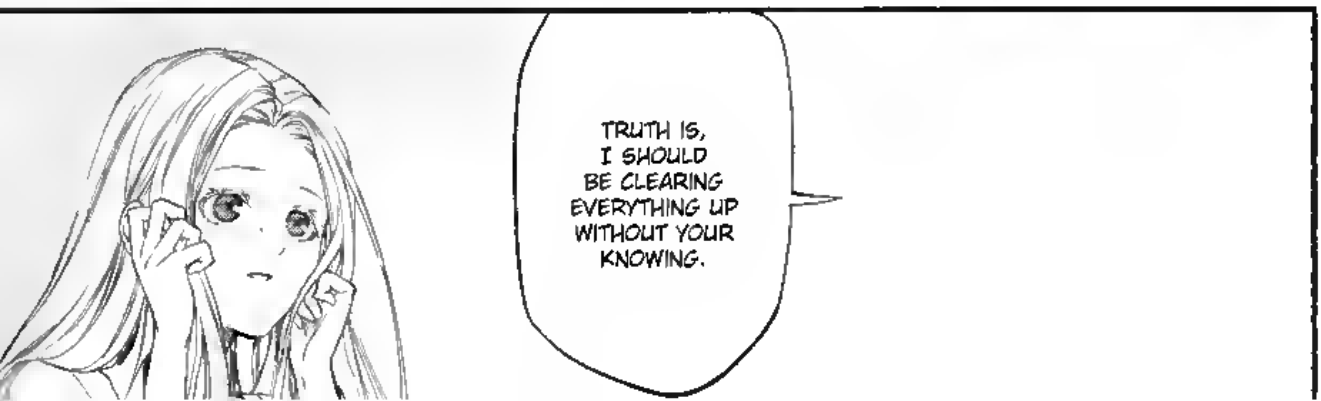
IT'S JUST A SHORT STORY, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
THE YOUNG MAN IN BLACK WITH THAT BLUE DEMONIC SWORD... COULD IT BE...
YES.
EVERY SINGLE DATE WAS WRITTEN DOWN.
THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF HIS DAUGHTER AND A SERIES OF UNRELATED DAILY EVENTS WERE MENTIONED AS WELL.

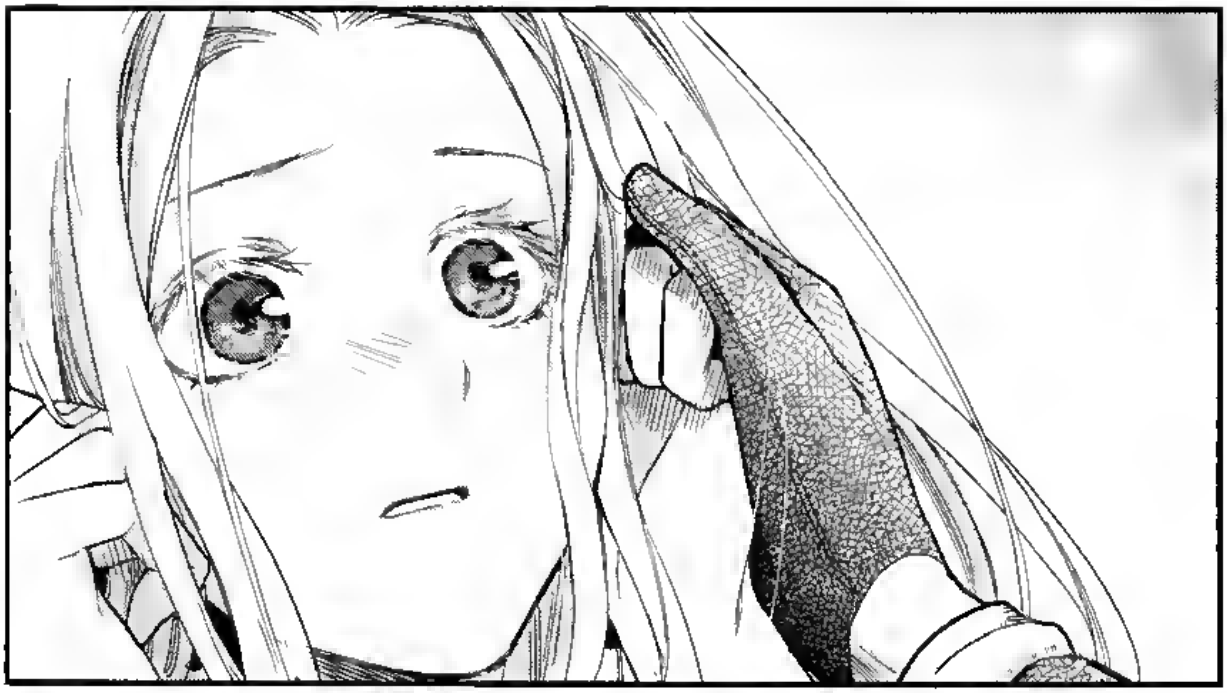
THIS IS PROBABLY...
A DIARY WRITTEN BY A PARENT ABOUT A DREAM HER DAUGHTER HAD.
T-THAT'S JUST COINCIDENTAL, JUNNA!
ALL THE MORE IF IT WERE A DREAM!

BE IT PREMONITIONS, OR CLAIRVOY-ANCE, THIS KIND OF THING...
Is not any magic that human beings can conjure.


DUE TO YOUR BEHAVIOR, SHE BEGAN QUESTIONING CERTAIN THINGS
AND THERE WERE NO NOTICEABLE SYMPTOMS AS TO WHAT IS ACTUALLY CONCEALED WITHIN HER.


It's just that, she fears being despised by you more than anything else.


TRUTH IS, I SHOULD BE CLEARING EVERYTHING UP WITHOUT YOUR KNOWING.

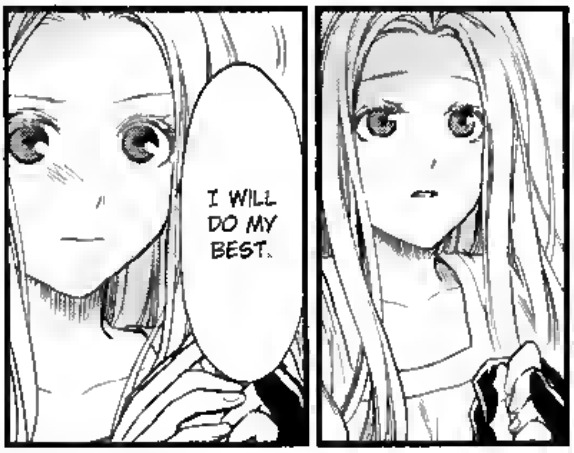


THAT'S WHY I'LL SETTLE THEM.

I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO BEAR THE DISCOMFORT AND UNEASE.

I WILL SETTLE OUR TALK WITH SYANDRYS.
I WILL ALSO RESOLVE THE CIVIL WAR
AND I WILL RETRIEVE GALFORT BACK AS QUICKLY AS I CAN.

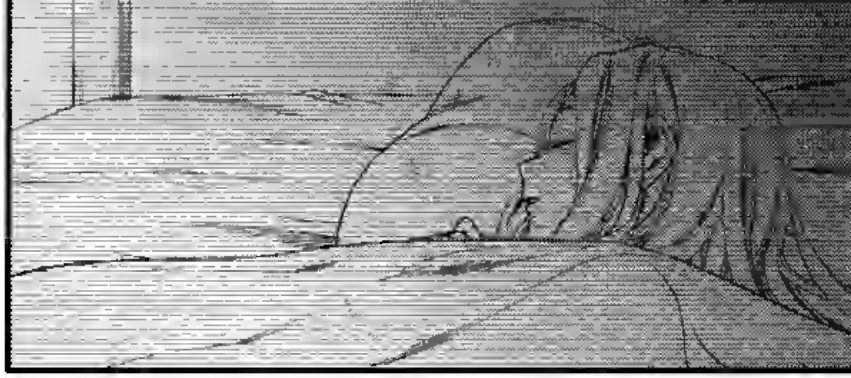
I WILL LOCATE WHATEVER THAT IS WITH THESE HANDS.


I WILL DO MY BEST.

THAT'S WHY, NO MATTER WHO YOUR OPPONENT IS, BE IT FOLNIER OR SAPHIR...
AND WHATEVER YOU MAY BE...
WITHOUT ALL THOSE MATTERS IN YOUR HEAD, I WANT YOU TO STAND BEHIND ME, PROUDLY AND MAJESTICALLY SMILING.

THAT'S A GOOD CHILD.

I won't lose, no matter who the opponents are.



FOR SURE!

I won't let such thoughts occur ever again.

RAIN

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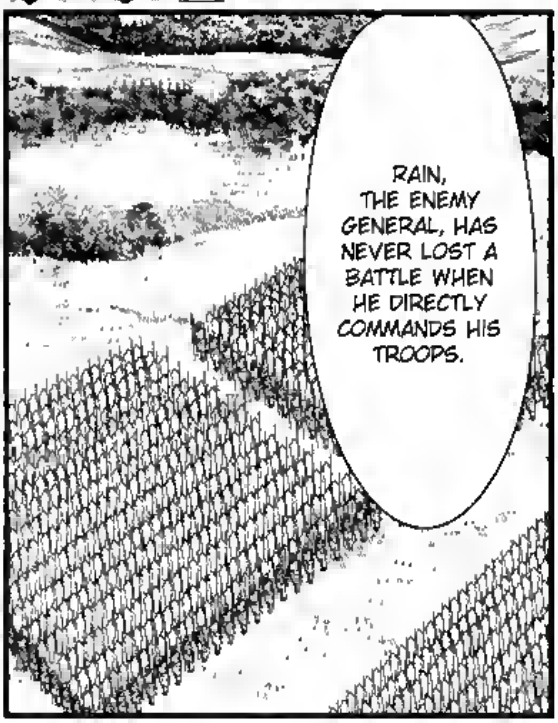
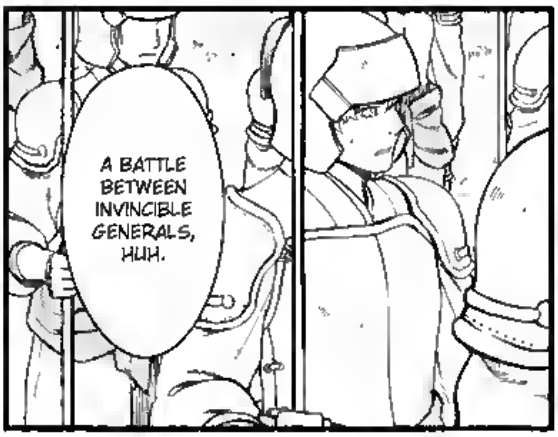
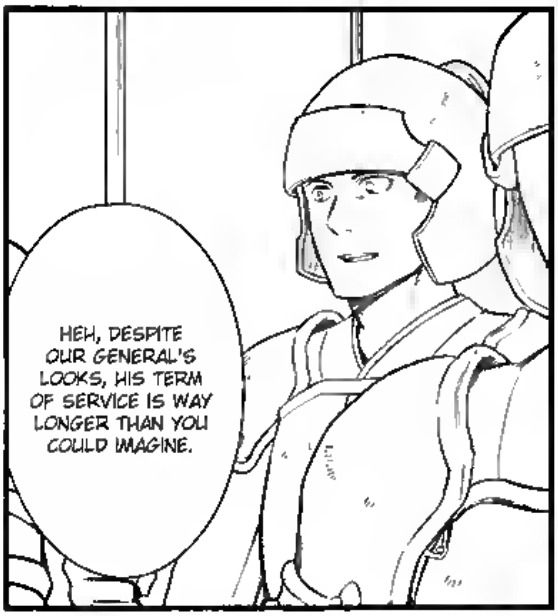
CHAPTER 30.
THE INVINCIBLE GENERAL.



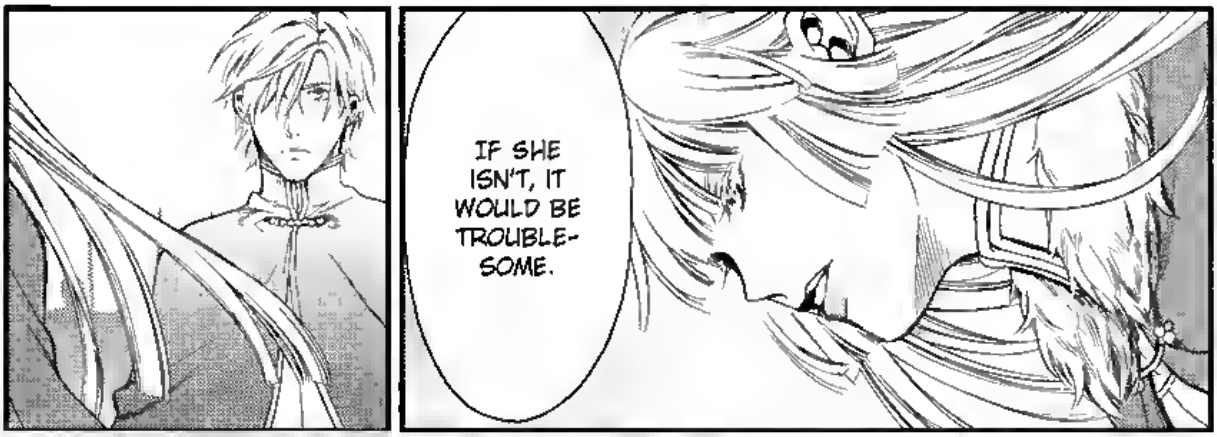


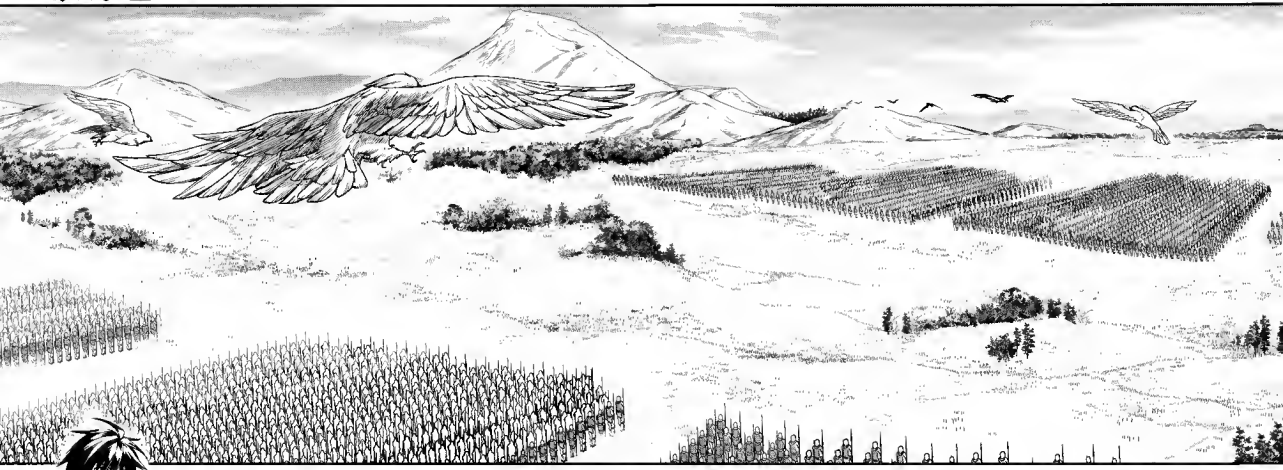


HEY, DID YOU KNOW?

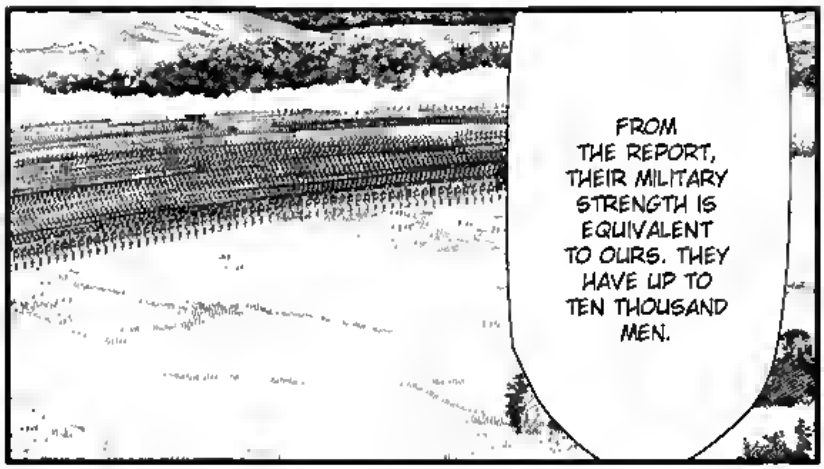
BUT, GENERAL SHING AND THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, RIGHT?
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF THERE WAS PEACE INSTEAD?
HEY, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF A WAR WOULD EVEN BREAK OUT.
WILL THIS END PEACEFULLY OR NOT...

OUR SCOUTS REPORTED THAT PRINCESS SHELFA IS WITH THEM.
I SEE.


IF SHE ISN'T, IT WOULD BE TROUBLE-SOME.

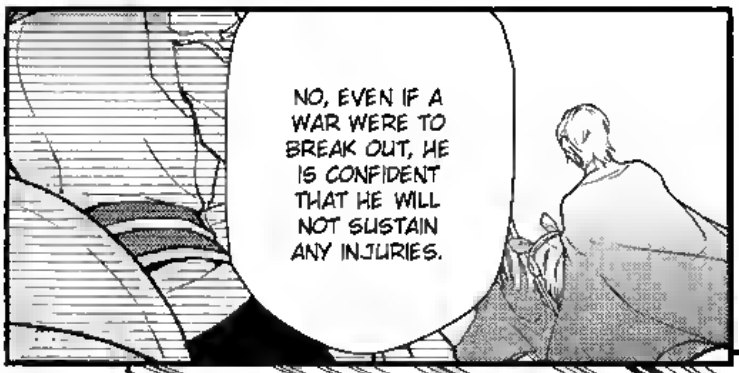


EVEN SO...
WHAT'S WRONG?

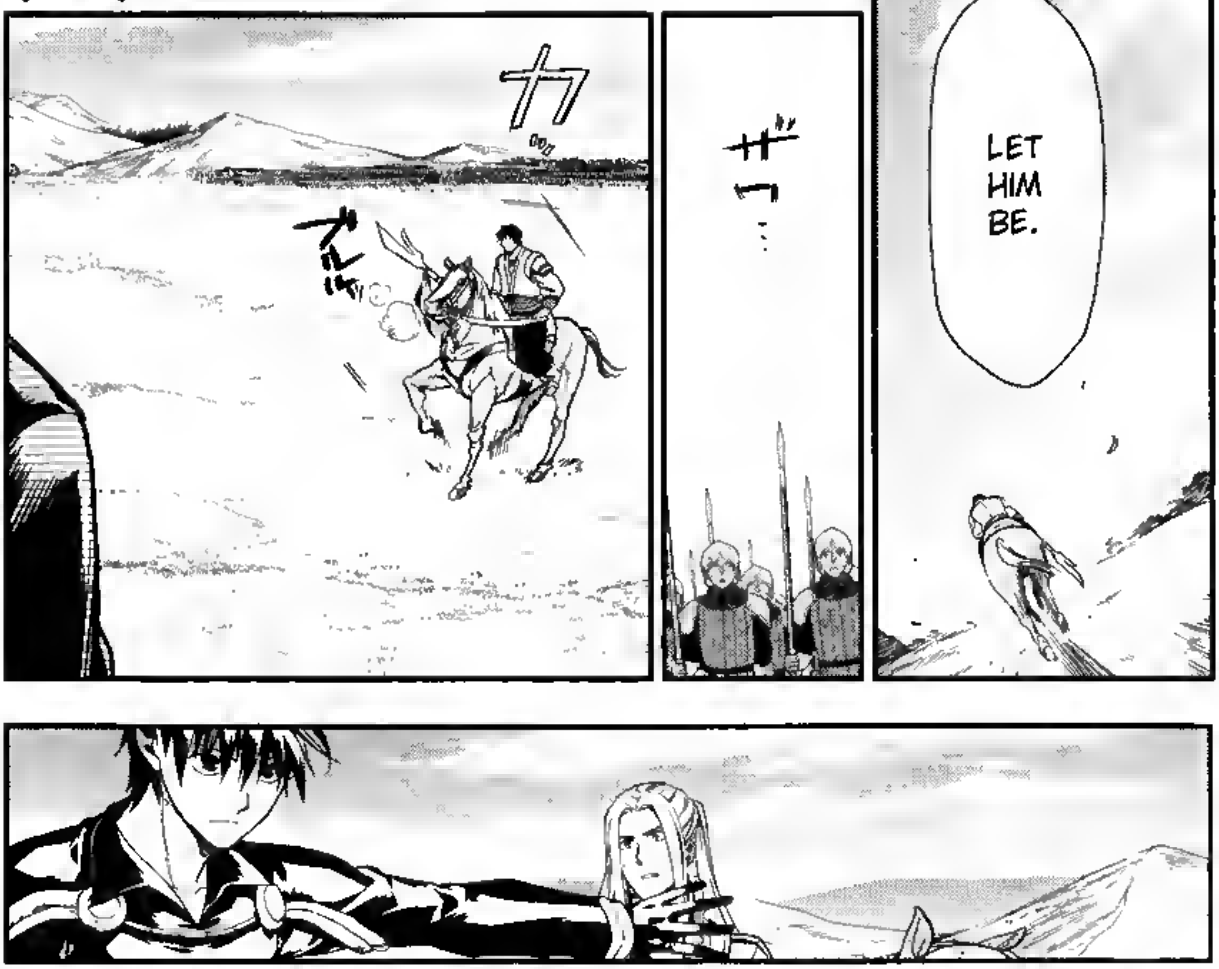

FROM THE REPORT, THEIR MILITARY STRENGTH IS EQUIVALENT TO OURS. THEY HAVE UP TO TEN THOUSAND MEN.

IS HE ASSERTING HIS DISINTEREST IN THIS WAR?

EVEN DURING SITUATIONS LIKE THIS, HE STILL DRESSES AS HE USUALLY DOES.
HE'S NOT EVEN WEAR-ING ANY ARMOR.

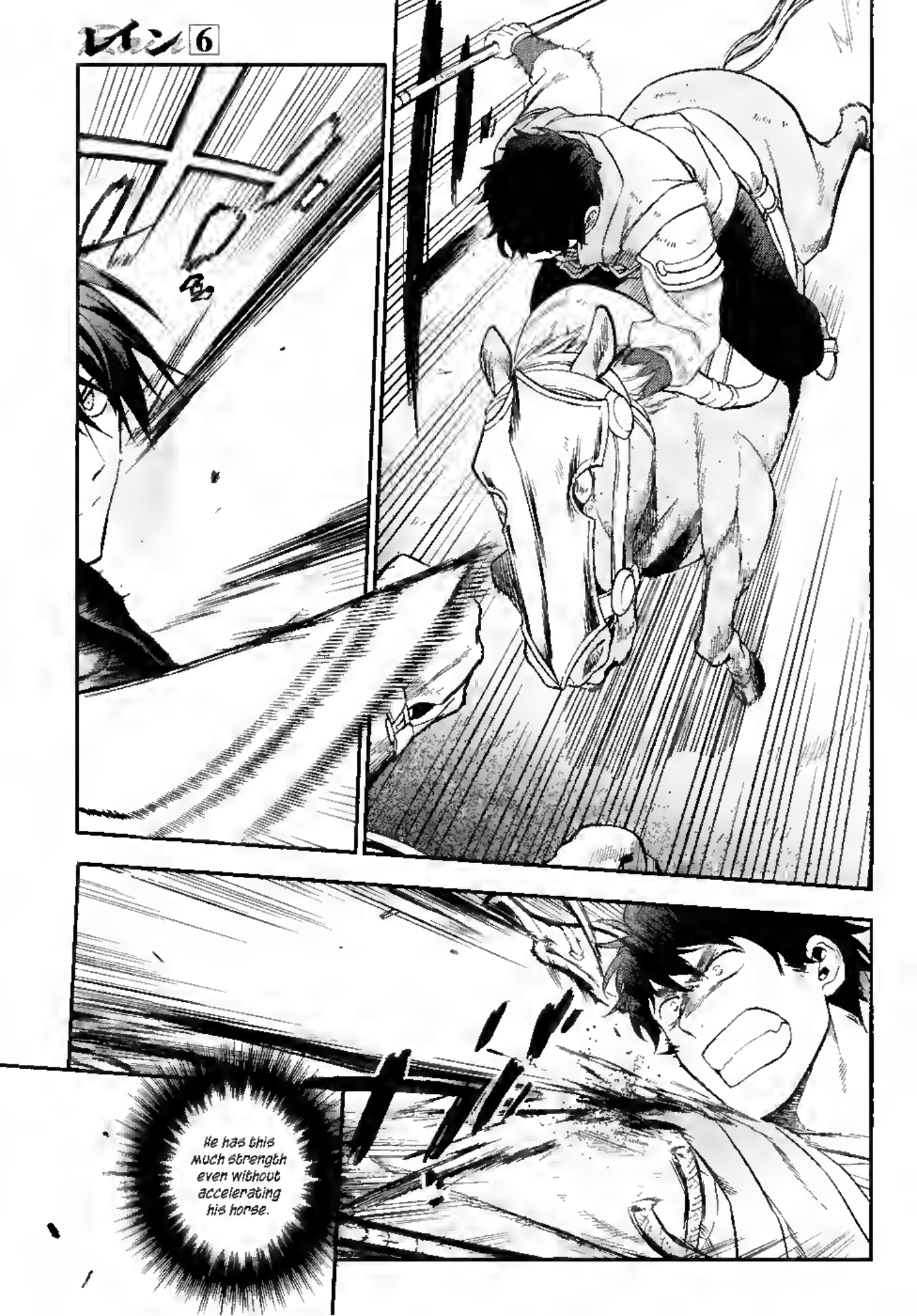

NO, EVEN IF A WAR WERE TO BREAK OUT, HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL NOT SUSTAIN ANY INJURIES.

!?
ZARTS !?
STOP!
JOE, WAIT.


LET HIM BE.

IF I WIN, YOU WILL RELEASE THE PRI-SONERS!
I'M ZARTS OF THE FIVE IMPERIAL GENERALS!
I REQUEST ONE-ON-ONE COMBAT WITH GENERAL RAIN!!

"I DID NOT COMPLETELY ROB THEM OF THEIR FREEDOM, AND ONCE THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN, I WILL RELEASE THEM."
EVEN IF I SAY THAT, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME, RIGHT?
IF YOU ACTUALLY DO, WE SHOULD BECOME GOOD FRIENDS.
MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, I'M THE KIND OF GUY WHO ACCEPTS ANY CHALLENGES.
WELL SAID.

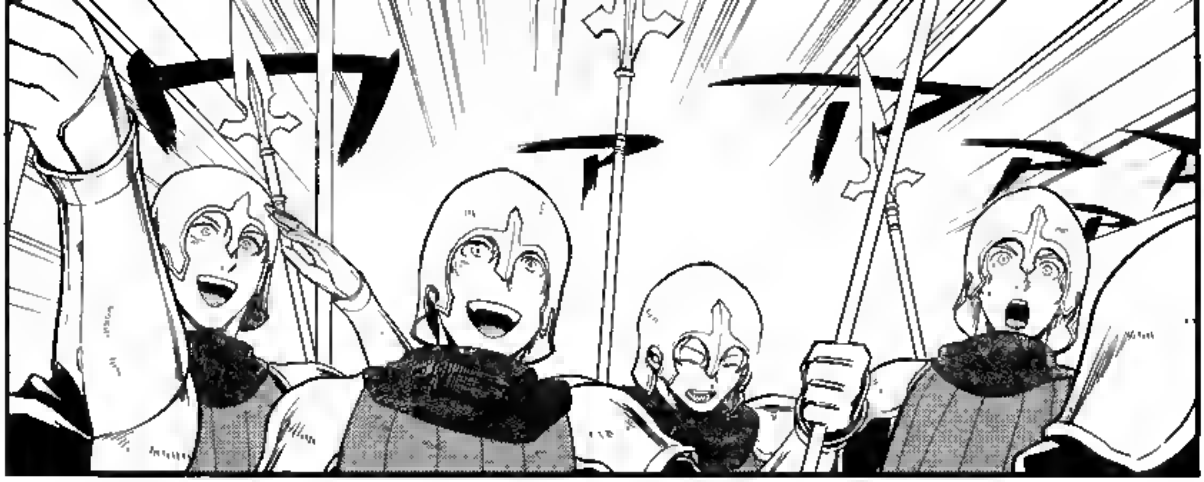

He has this much strength even without accelerating his horse.

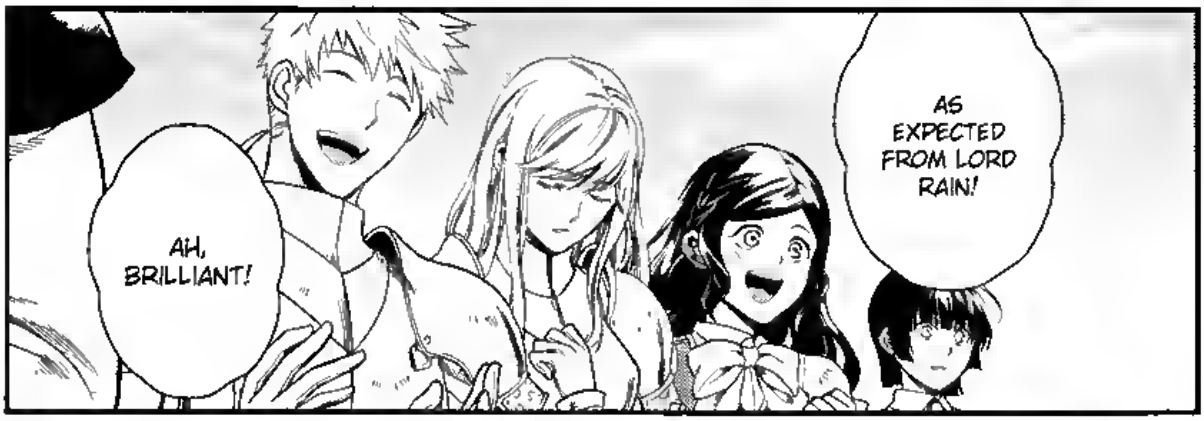
The three of them were defeated by him.
The chances of me winning this battle are slim.

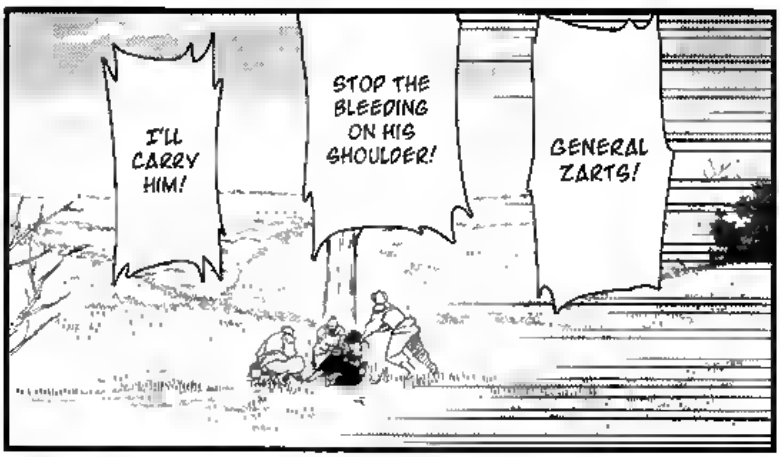
SO YOU'RE THE KIND OF GUY WHO DOESN'T CARE IF WE STAB EACH OTHER, HUH.
YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER THREE, WHO, UNLIKE YOU, WERE WILLING TO BECOME HOSTAGES IN EXCHANGE FOR SETTING THEIR TROOPS FREE WHEN THEY WERE TRAPPED IN BATTLE.
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, THREW AWAY ALL DEFENSES AND CHARGED AT YOUR ENEMY WITHOUT CONSIDERING YOUR OWN LIFE.
I KNOW THAT!
YEAH, SO WHAT?

レヨン
SO SHUT UP AND TAKE THIS!!!

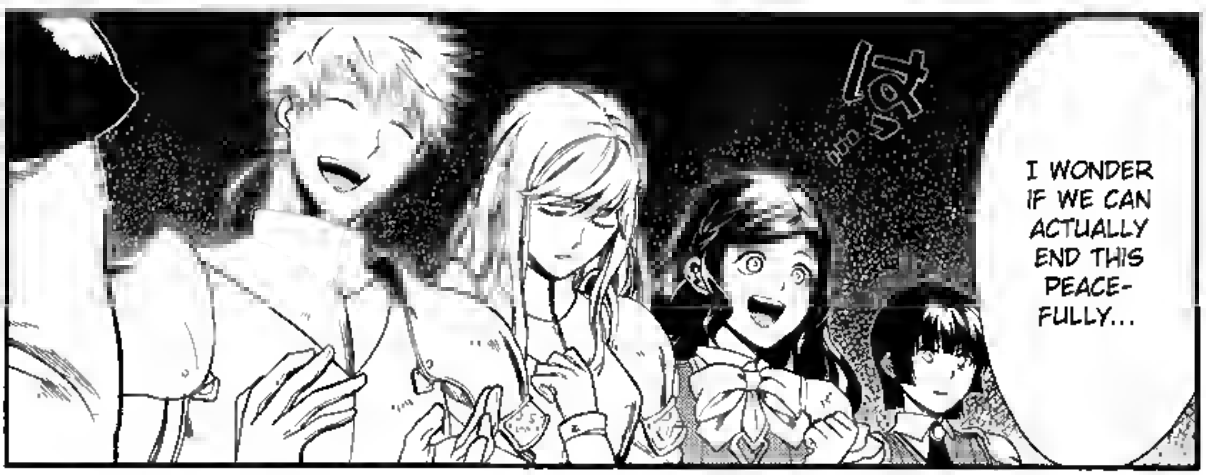
ドサ…
AH…
UEGH…

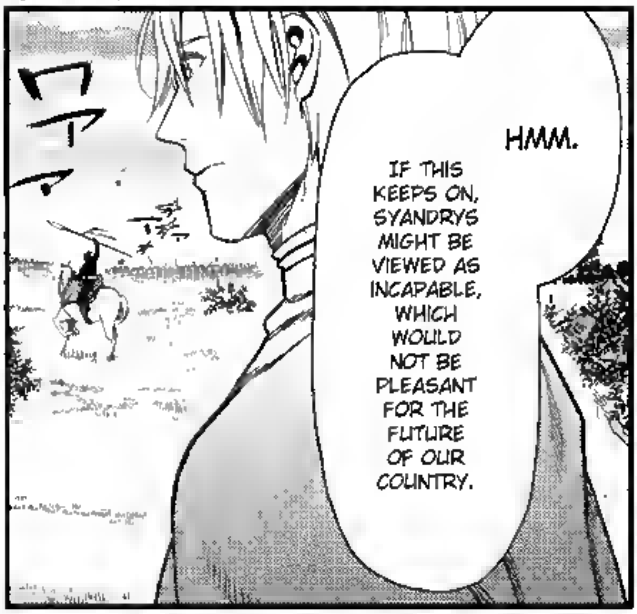



AS EXPECTED FROM LORD RAIN!
AH, BRILLIANT!


I'LL CARRY HIM!
STOP THE BLEEDING ON HIS SHOULDER!
GENERAL ZARTS!

THEY SHOULD BE THE ONES TO START BREAKING THE ICE, BUT...


I WONDER IF WE CAN ACTUALLY END THIS PEACE-FULLY...


ワァ
HMM.
IF THIS KEEPS ON, SYANDRYS MIGHT BE VIEWED AS INCAPABLE, WHICH WOULD NOT BE PLEASANT FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.

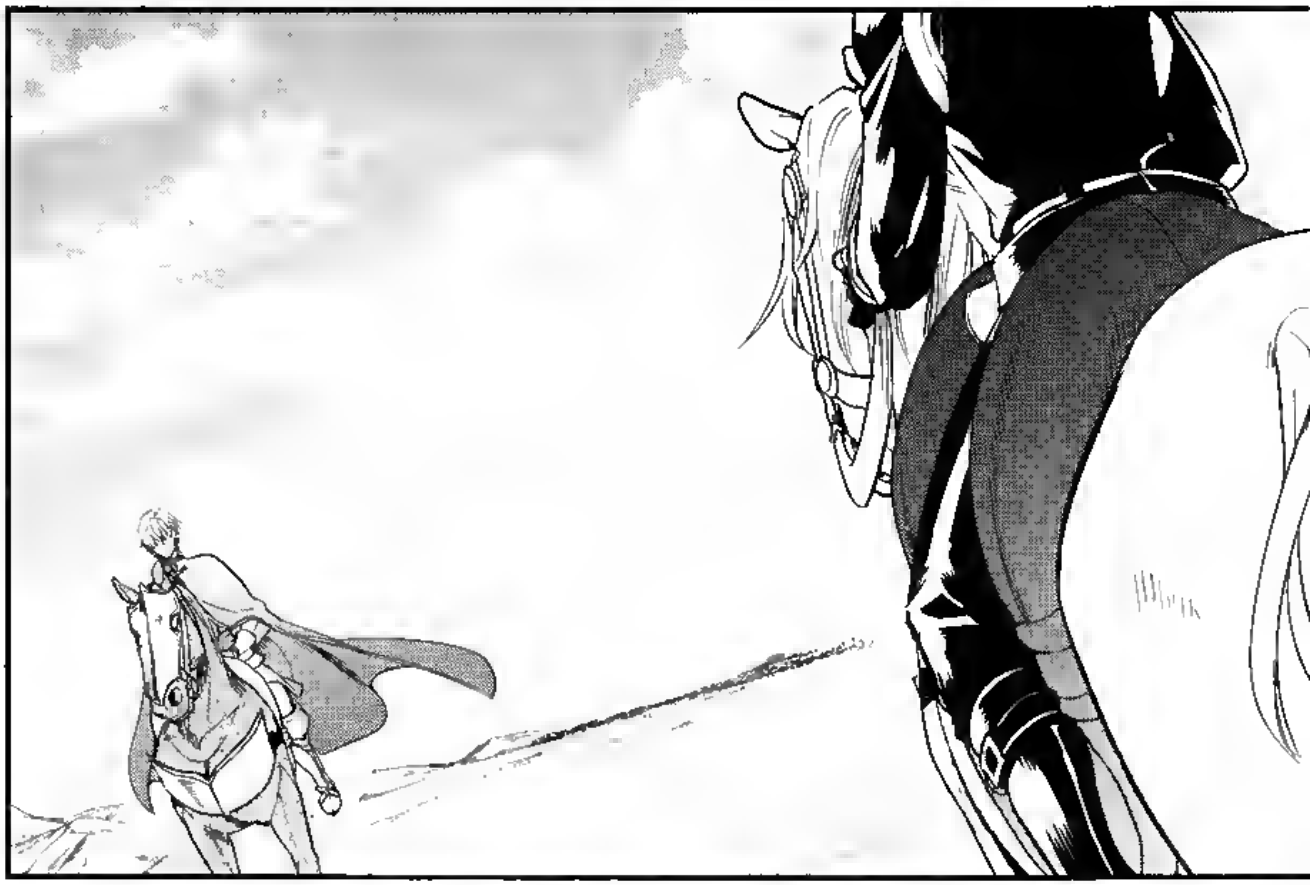
FOR HIM TO BE DEFE-ATED THIS EASILY...

JOE! EVEN IF YOU DO...!
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE TO RESTORE OUR REPUTATION.
カコ

カッ
PLEASE DO NOT WORRY.

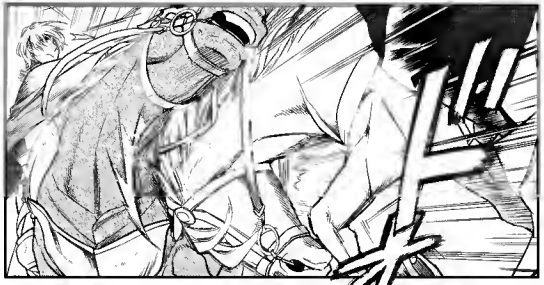
NO, IT'S NOT THAT...

I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE IN A FIGHT BETWEEN YOUNG-STERS IN THEIR MID-TWENTIES.
AFTER ALL, MY TERM OF SERVICE IS SLIGHTLY... DIFFERENT.



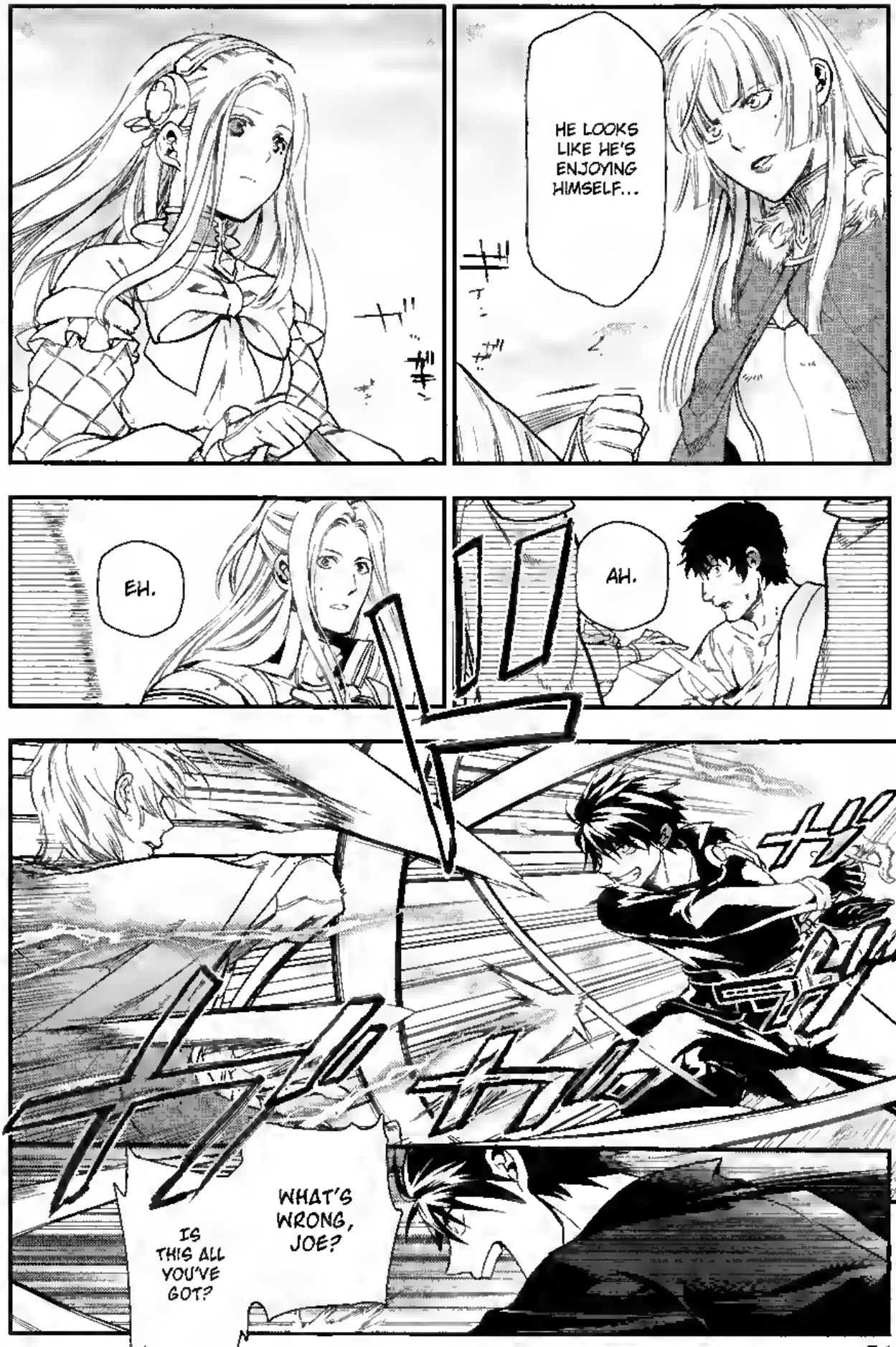
JOE
RAMBERG
...

IF I GET IN THE WAY, I'LL BE COVERED IN BLOOD GROVELING ON MY KNEES, WAS IT?
DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST SO YOU CAN WORSHIP ME?
WELL DONE!
LET'S TRY IT, SHALL WE?



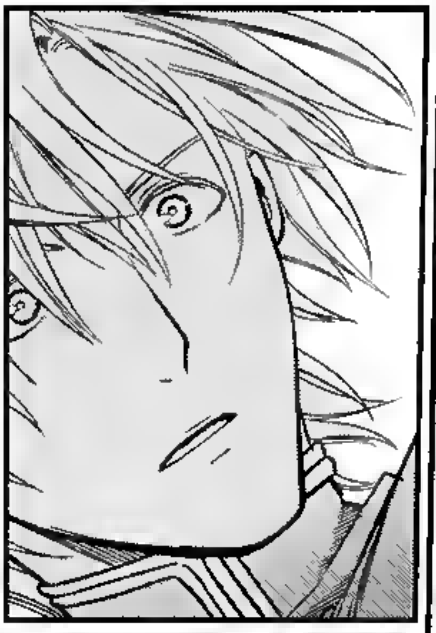
The horse won't hold any longer...

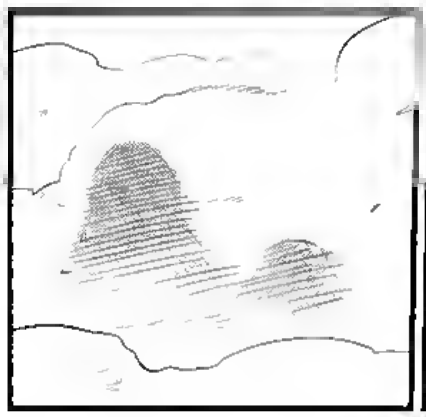
He discarded his advantage on the horse!?
Arro-gance?
No...
It's his insistence for a Fair Match.


HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ENJOYING HIMSELF...
EH.
AH.
WHAT'S WRONG, JOE?
IS THIS ALL YOU'VE GOT?

YOU'RE REALLY...
HARD TO HANDLE, AREN'T YOU!

THERE'S NO WAY... AFTER TAKING THAT BLOW AT POINT BLANK...
GENERAL RAIN!?
G-GENERAL!!
DAMN IT...WHAT HAVE I DONE...
FOR ME TO FORGET HOLDING BACK WHILE BEING TOO ENGROSSED IN THE FIGHT...





*STOP!!

TL/N: *SHELFA AND FOLNIER SAID IT DIFFERENTLY, BUT THEY MEAN THE SAME

YES.
JOE.
ALRIGHT.
LET'S GET ON WITH THE REAL THING.

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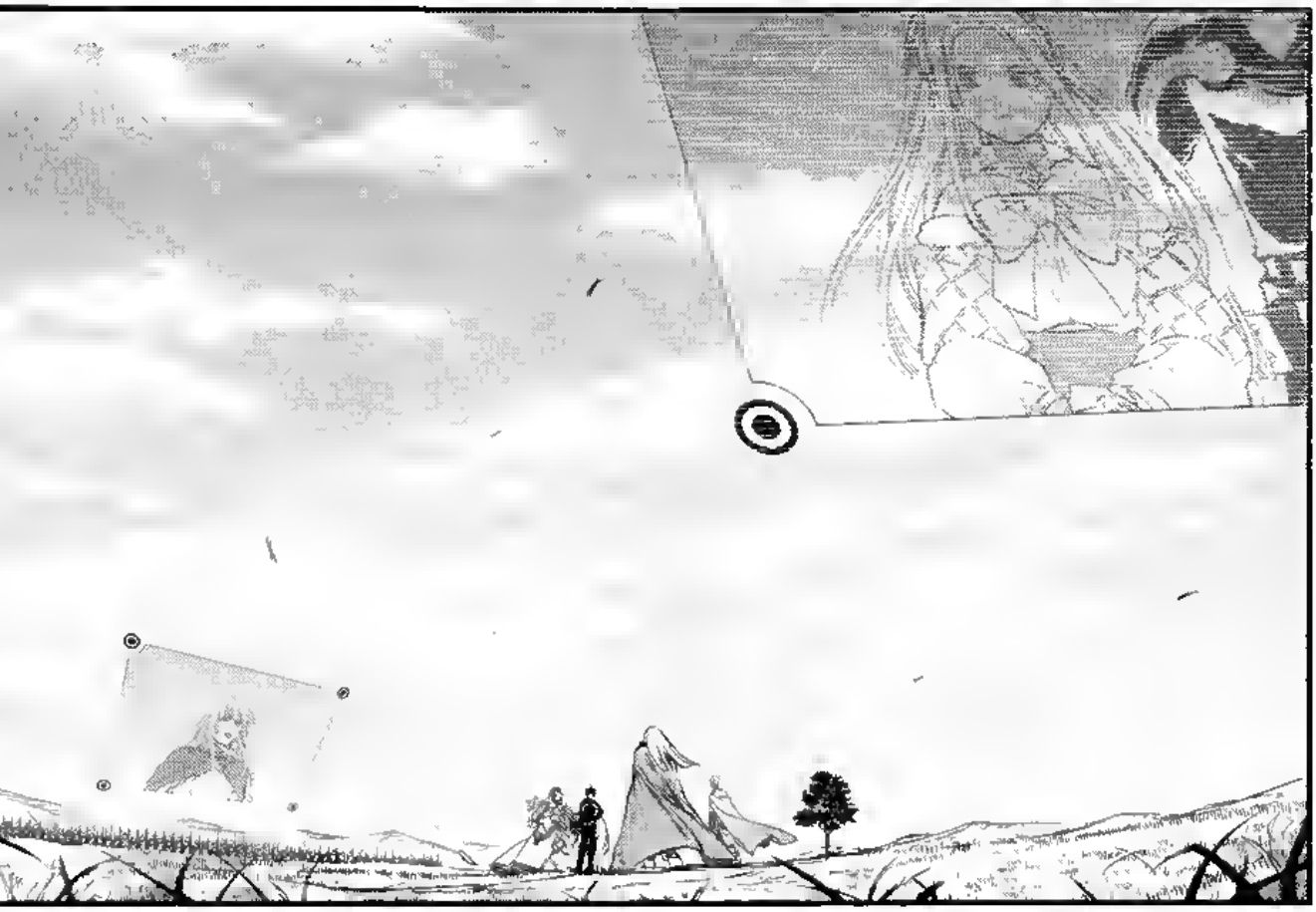
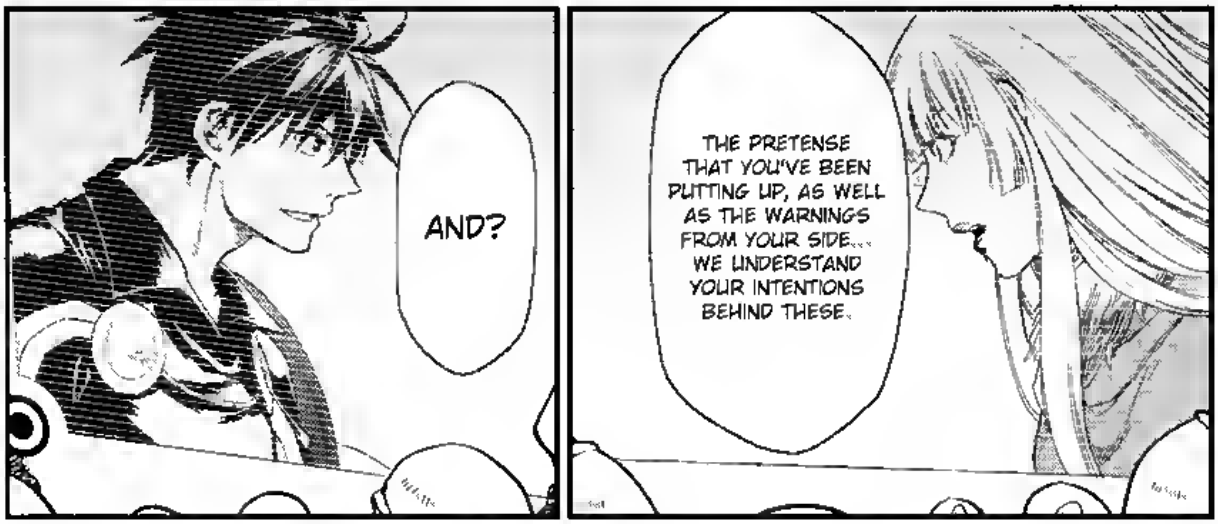
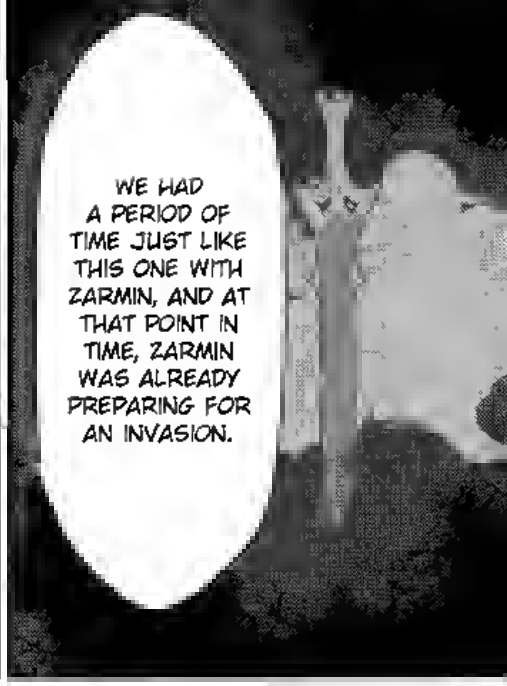
CHAPTER 31.
ORDEAL OF TRUST.

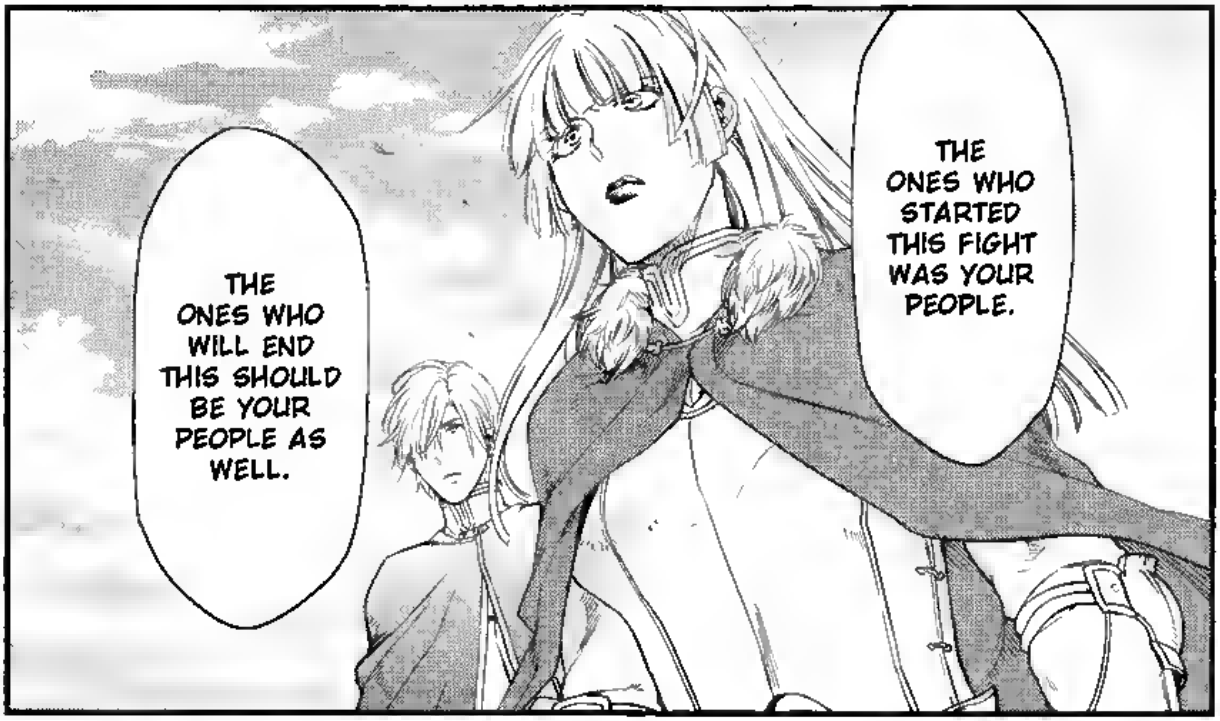
If we take the initiative just because we want the alliance, they'll take advantage of it.
I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY FOR US TO GO ANYWHERE ELSE.
Do you really think that we'll comply just because you say so?
WHY DON'T WE START FROM YOUR SIDE, IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY?
JOE.
WE SHALL LET THE WHOLE ARMY LISTEN TO THIS NEGOTIA-TION.
YES.



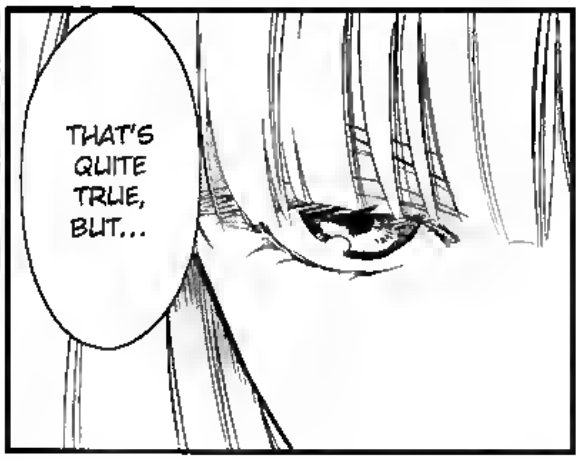

AND?
THE PRETENSE THAT YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING UP, AS WELL AS THE WARNINGS FROM YOUR SIDE... WE UNDERSTAND YOUR INTENTIONS BEHIND THESE.

BEFORE ANY LARGE-SCALE BATTLE OCCURS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, MAYBE WE SHOULD OMIT ALL INSIGNIFICANT DISPOSITIONS.
EVEN SO, I THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE A BARE MINIMUM FROM WHERE WE WILL START.

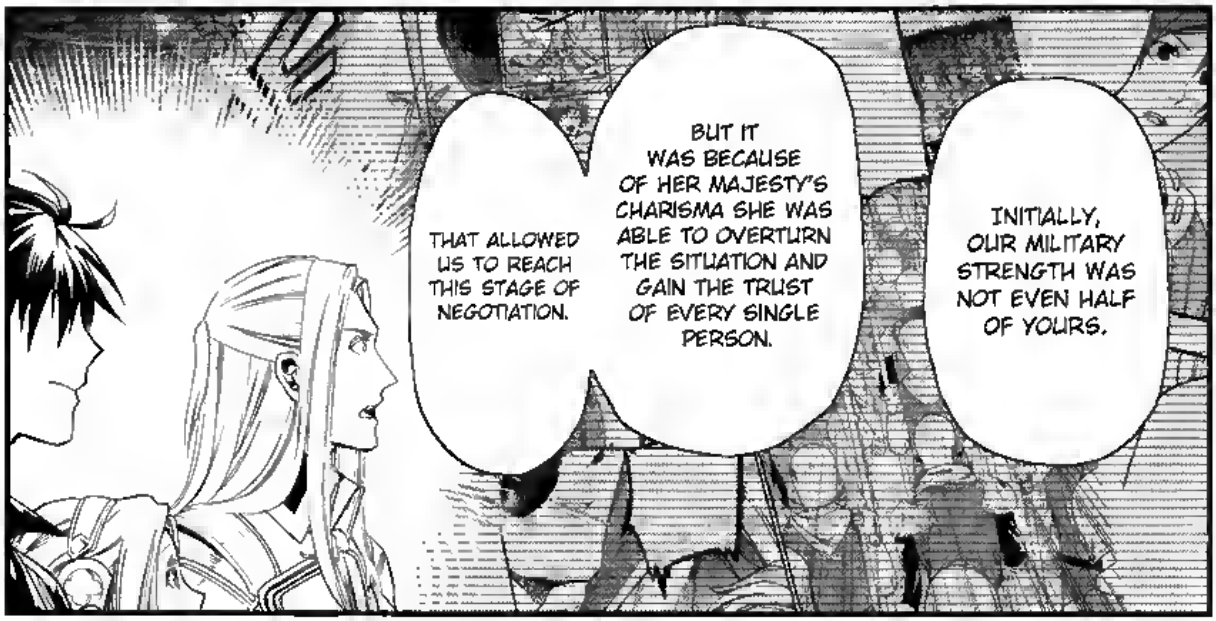

WE HAD A PERIOD OF TIME JUST LIKE THIS ONE WITH ZARMIN, AND AT THAT POINT IN TIME, ZARMIN WAS ALREADY PREPARING FOR AN INVASION.

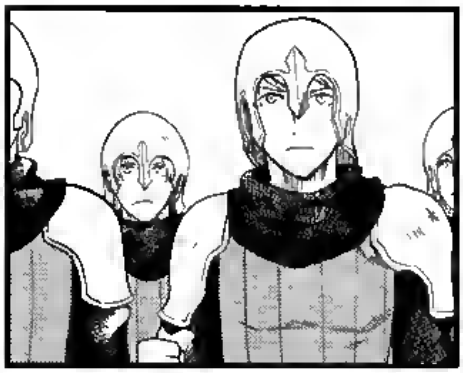

THE ONES WHO STARTED THIS FIGHT WAS YOUR PEOPLE.
THE ONES WHO WILL END THIS SHOULD BE YOUR PEOPLE AS WELL.

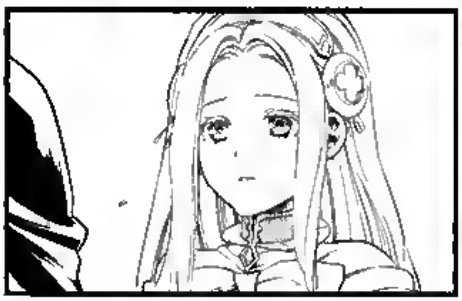
ISN'T IT STRANGE FOR ME TO BE NEGOTIATING WITH YOU?
DESPITE THE REAL MASTER STANDING RIGHT BESIDE YOU.


THAT'S QUITE TRUE, BUT...

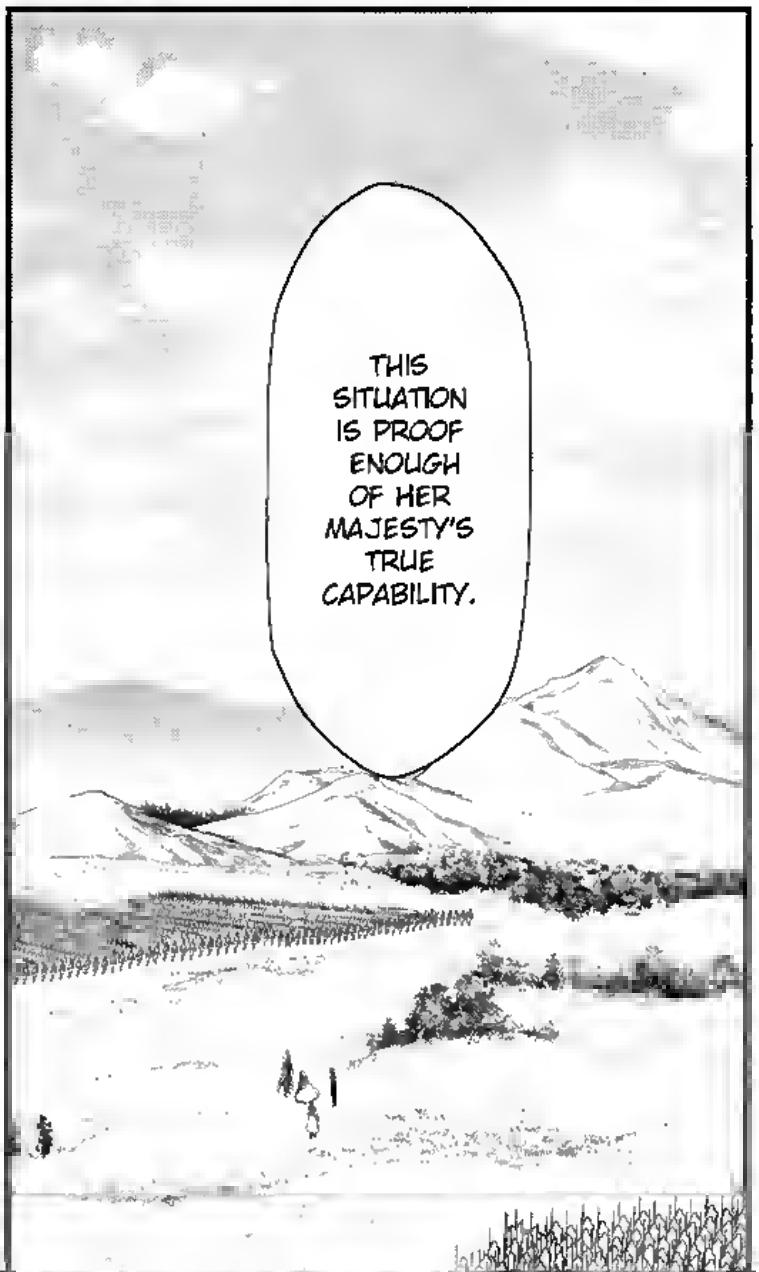
THE TIME OF THE PREVIOUS KING'S DEMISE WAS THE FIRST TIME THIS PERSON STEPPED OUT INTO THE REAL WORLD, AND IT HAS BARELY BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE SHE EXPERIENCED THE WORLD.
DESPITE HER GREAT APTITUDE TO BE A LEADER, IT TAKES TIME FOR THAT POTENTIAL TO BE EXPANDED TO ITS GREATEST THROUGH EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE.
I'M SORRY, BUT IT IS RALPHUS' AND MY DUTY TO DO THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH REGARD TO THIS BATTLE.
APTITUDE?
YOU HAVE SEEN IT AS WELL, UP TILL NOW.
WHAT EVIDENCE DO YOU HAVE TO DRAW THAT CONCLUSION?


INITIALLY, OUR MILITARY STRENGTH WAS NOT EVEN HALF OF YOURS.
BUT IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER MAJESTY'S CHARISMA SHE WAS ABLE TO OVERTURN THE SITUATION AND GAIN THE TRUST OF EVERY SINGLE PERSON.
THAT ALLOWED US TO REACH THIS STAGE OF NEGOTIATION.





WORD PLAY ...


THIS SITUATION IS PROOF ENOUGH OF HER MAJESTY'S TRUE CAPABILITY.

ISN'T THAT JUST A PROOF OF AN INCAPABLE LEADER FOLLOWING HER SUBJECT'S WORDS?
GOOD ENOUGH PROOF, YOU SAY!?

DON'T MOVE, JOE!!
W-W...

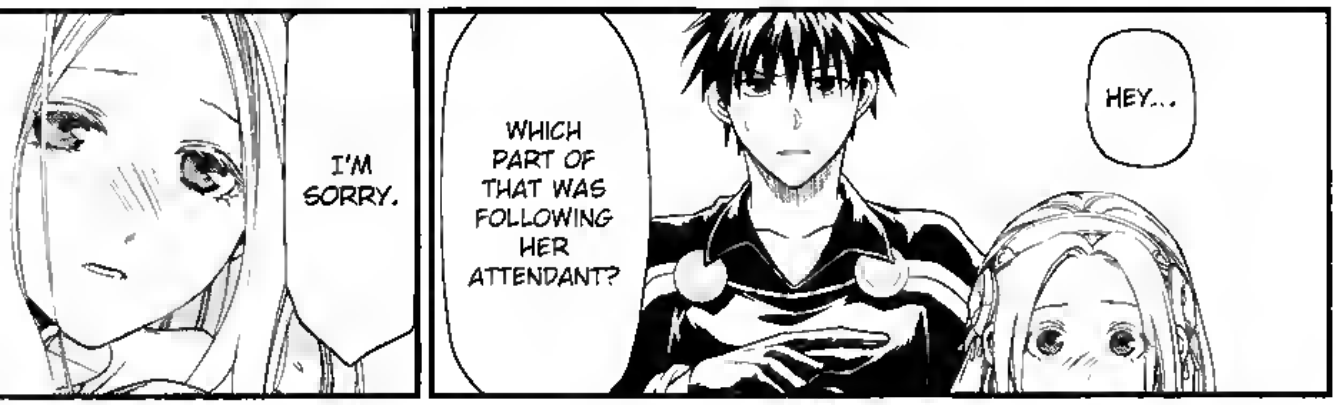
THIS IS IN MY FAVOR.

I CAN CUT HER DOWN FASTER THAN YOU CAN PROTECT HER.
EMPRESS FOLNIER LUCEEDA SYANDRYS.
THE ACCURATE JUDGMENTS THAT YOU HAVE MADE, I SUPPOSE, BY YOURSELF ...
WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU DID ALL THAT WITHOUT THE HELP OF YOUR GENERAL?
THE SHAME OF THE MASTER IS THE SHAME OF HIS FOLLOWERS.
I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE BACK YOUR PREVIOUS OUTBURST.

ゴゥ
INDEED, WITHOUT JOE, I WOULD NOT BE WHAT I AM TODAY.
THAT POINT ALONE IS THE ONLY SIMILARITY BETWEEN SHELFA AND MYSELF.
I SAID TOO MUCH.
I WISH TO TAKE IT BACK.
NO...
IT'S THE TRUTH.

AND I UNDERSTAND THAT MY POWERLESSNESS IS THE EXACT REASON AS TO WHY I AM UNABLE TO BRING ABOUT PEACE.
I DO NOT HAVE THE APPROPRIATE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO BECOME A GOOD LEADER.
HOWEVER ...
I WAS TOLD THAT I AM NOT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IF I DESIRE PEACE, BUT...
EVEN WITH MY IGNORANCE, I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT AN IMPENDING WAR IS NOT THE BEST SOLUTION.

STOP FIGHTING?
CAN WE...

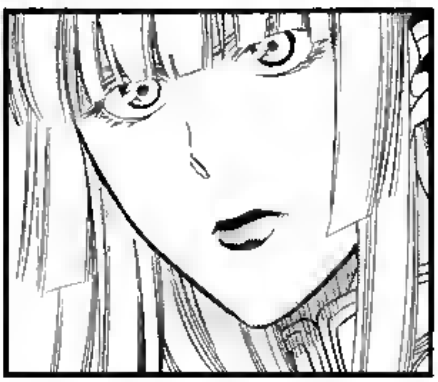

I'M SORRY.
WHICH PART OF THAT WAS FOLLOWING HER ATTENDANT?
HEY...

BUT SHE CAN APOLOGIZE.
THAT'S WHY SHE RELIES ON OTHERS.
SHE DOESN'T ENVY OTHERS' CAPABILITIES.
SHE DOESN'T SCORN OTHERS OF LOWER RANK.
SHE ACKNOW-LEDGES HER INCAPABILITY.
SHE ACCEPTS SUGGESTIONS AND ADMONITIONS UNCONDI-TIONALLY.

UNLESS YOU WANT TO IGNORE MY WARNINGS AND PUT THE COUNTRIES IN DANGER.
WE'RE LISTENING
IN ORDER TO CONSIDER EVERY THING THAT WILL HAPPEN FROM NOW ON AND BUILD AN IMPORTANT FOUNDATION.
WE JUST MOVED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCESS' DECISIONS.
WE HAVE YET TO ENFORCE A SINGLE POLICY.
NEXT, ALLOW ME TO SAY THIS. WHAT ARE YOU, THE INVADERS, GOING TO DO AFTER INVADING A COUNTRY WHOSE TREASURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ITS PEOPLE?
BUT IF SHE WEREN'T GRACIOUS, SHE WOULD HAVE RUN AWAY A LONG TIME AGO.
SHE'S NOT A MASOCHIST WHO WILL INSIST SO MUCH AS TO BOARD A SINKING SHIP.

THERE WILL DEFINITELY BE UNCERTAINTIES.
BUT THIS IS THE PRINCESS WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE.

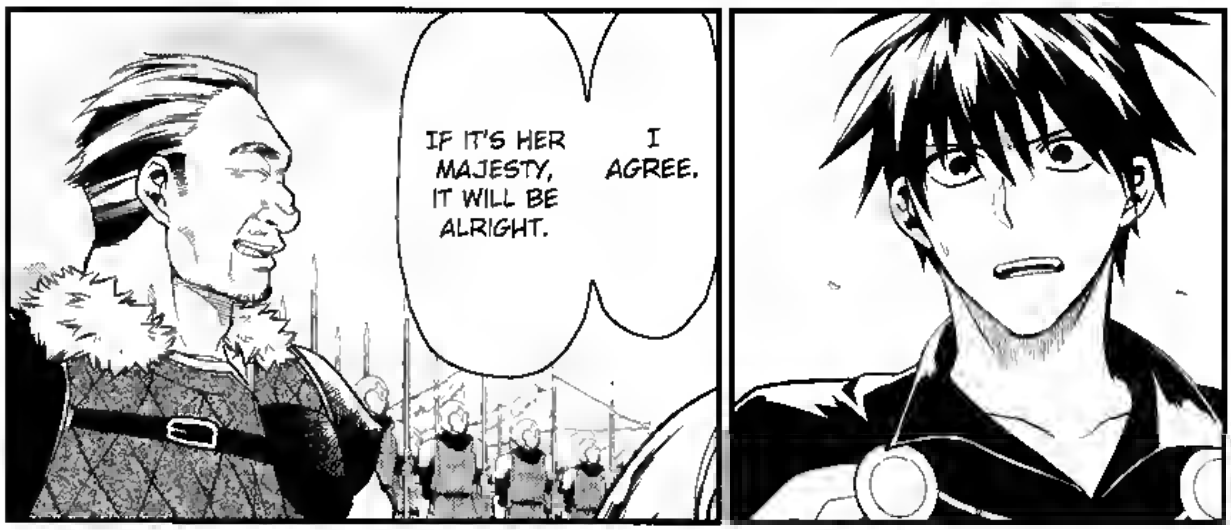
THEN ...!
HOWEVER, A WEAK NEIGHBORING COUNTRY IS LIKE BAIT THAT WILL ONLY INVITE THE BIGGER COUNTRIES TO INVADE.

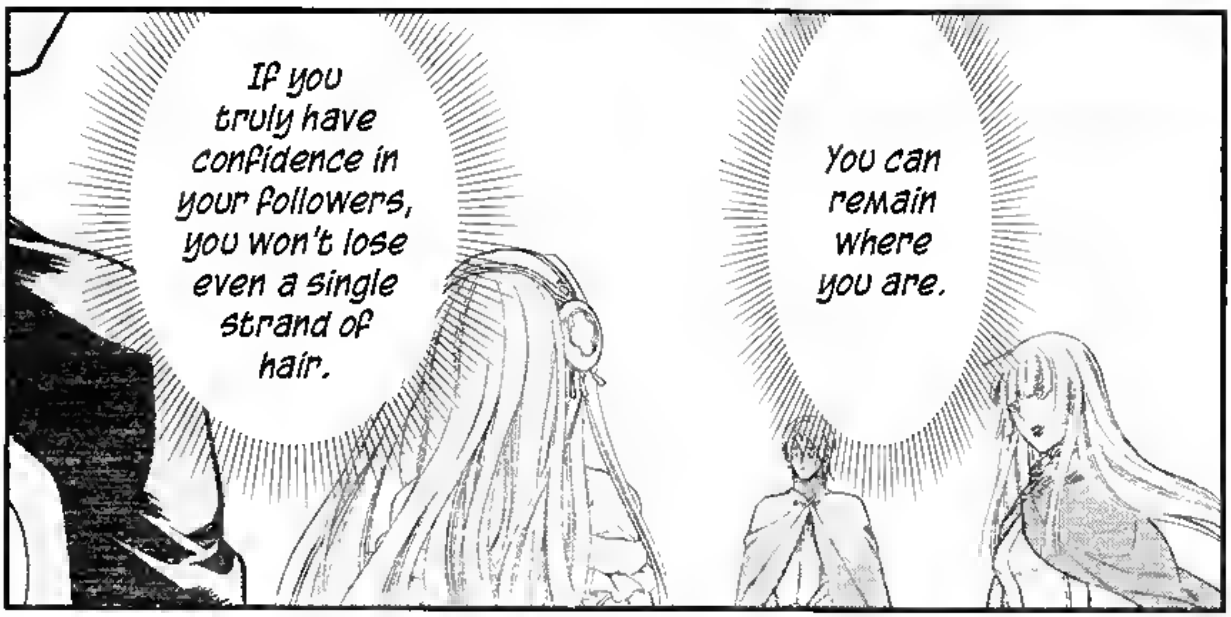


WE DESIRE PEACE AS WELL.

WHETHER MAKING THE BEST USE OF YOUR CAPABLE GENERAL IS A TALENT OR NOT...
I'D LIKE TO GIVE IT A TEST.

HEY!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
WHY AREN'T WE STOPPING THEM!?
WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRESSION?
IT'S SO UNLIKE YOU.

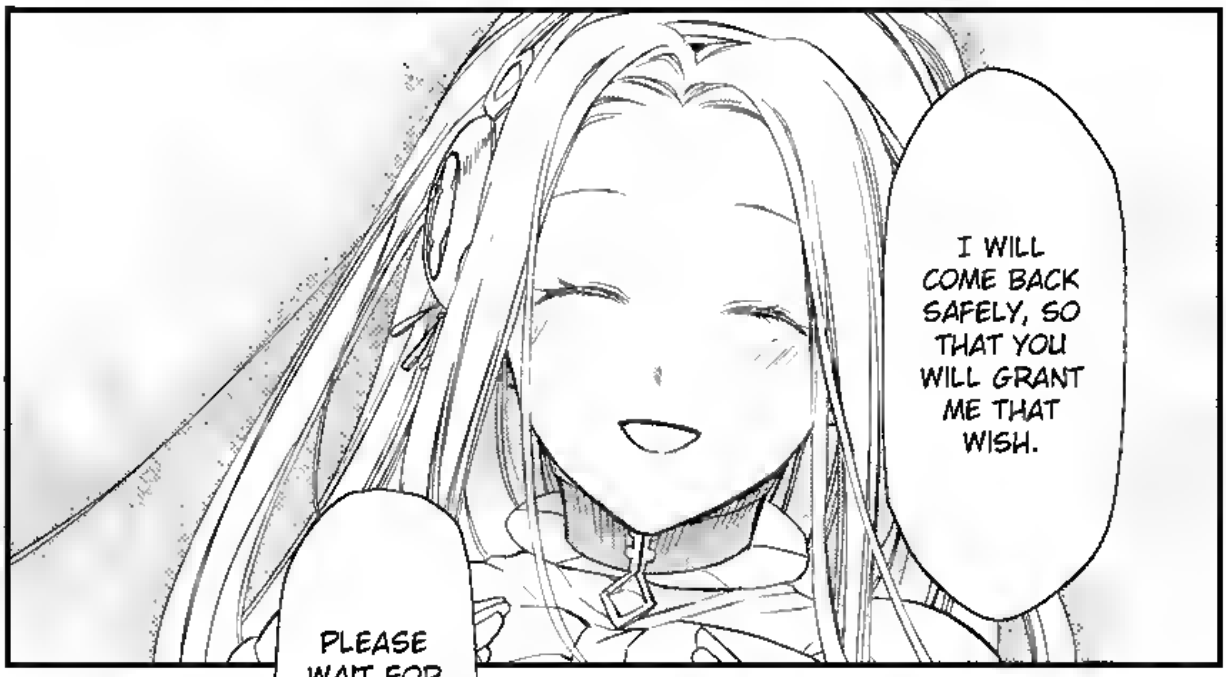

I AGREE.
IF IT'S HER MAJESTY, IT WILL BE ALRIGHT.


You can remain where you are.
If you truly have confidence in your followers, you won't lose even a single strand of hair.

SHALL WE START?
YES.
But if you waver for even a single moment ...
ス…
HEY, LITTLE ONE, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YOU CAN STOP NOW IF YOU WANT TO.
IT'S FINE.
AS LONG AS RAIN IS HERE FOR ME.

JOE'S TECHNIQUES ARE MERELY ILLUSIONS NO MATTER HOW REAL THEY SEEM.
EVEN IF THEY DON'T HURT YOU IN REALITY, THE ILLUSIONS CAN SHATTER YOUR HEART.
AS LONG AS YOU KNOW AND BELIEVE THAT IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION, HIS TECHNIQUES WILL BE RENDERED USELESS.
I GUARANTEE YOU THAT.
THEN LET'S DO IT THIS WAY.
IF I PASS THIS TEST WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE ...
YOU HAVE TO KEEP THAT "PROMISE".
PROMISE ...?

AH.
I SAID IT.
YEAH, I DID SAY THAT ...

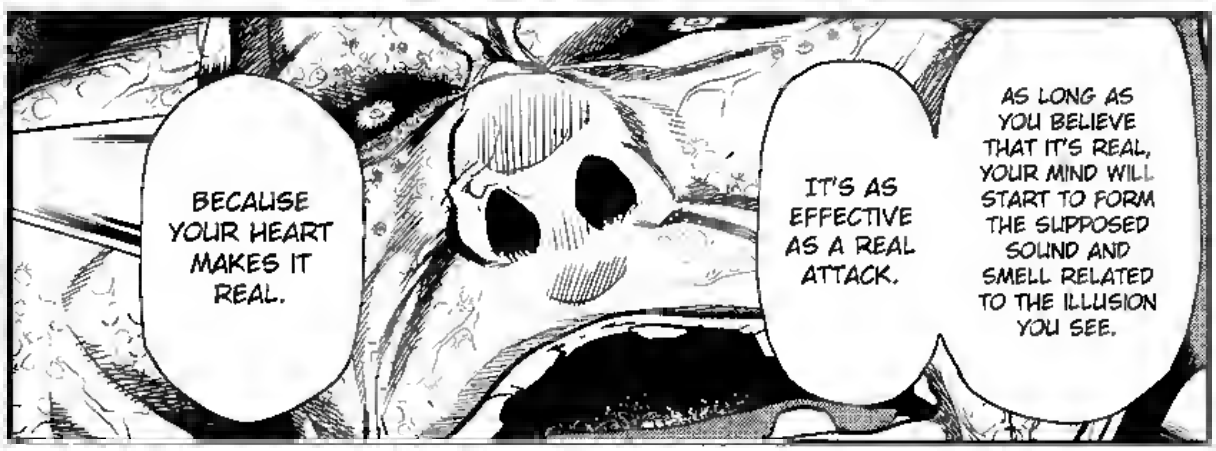

I WILL COME BACK SAFELY, SO THAT YOU WILL GRANT ME THAT WISH.
PLEASE WAIT FOR ME.

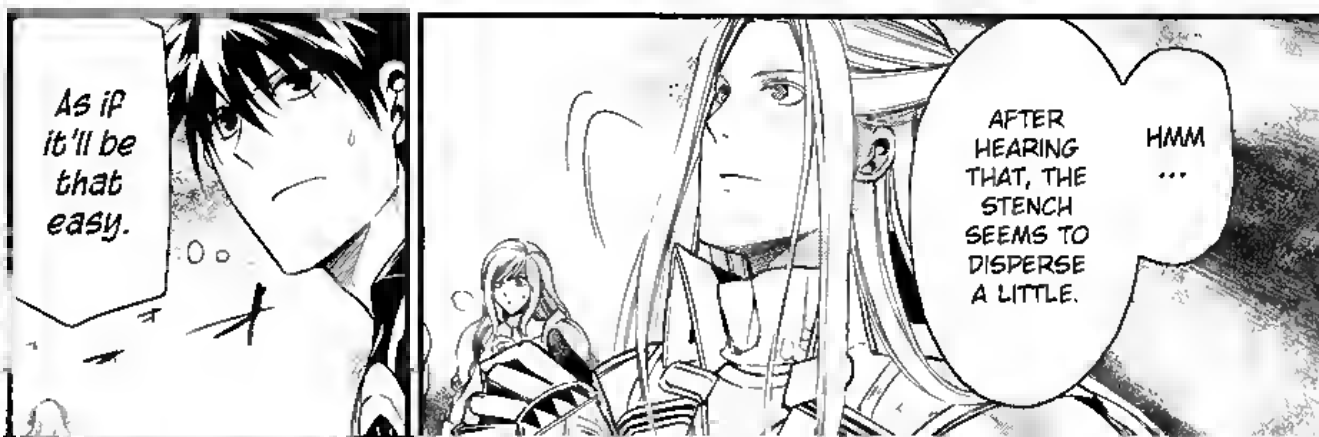
BUT I WARN YOU TO PREPARE YOURSELF, JUST IN CASE.
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BET ON HER.
IT'S MY FAULT I CAN'T STOP HER.
AH.
ARE YOU DONE ALREADY?
IF I DECIDE TO USE ITS REAL POWER RIGHT NOW, I WONDER, HOW MANY WILL I BE ABLE TO KILL?
A LONG TIME AGO, THIS SWORD BURIED THOUSANDS OF TRAVELLERS WHO LOST TO IT.

"THOUSANDS" IS BUT AN UNDERSTATEMENT.
I WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOU ALL DROWN IN A SEA OF BLOOD.
LET'S BEGIN NOW.
... JOE.
COME FORTH.

A GIANT?
UROHH...

THIS IS AN ILLUSION, HUH...
YOU ARE ALL TRAPPED WITHIN JOE'S TECHNIQUES.
CONGRATULATIONS.
DON'T YOU KNOW?
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE ODOR IS LIKE THAT OF A MIDDLE-AGED MAN'S WHO HAS NEVER BATHED EVER SINCE HE WAS BORN...
A FILTHY SMELL ...


BECAUSE YOUR HEART MAKES IT REAL.
IT'S AS EFFECTIVE AS A REAL ATTACK.
AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE THAT IT'S REAL, YOUR MIND WILL START TO FORM THE SUPPOSED SOUND AND SMELL RELATED TO THE ILLUSION YOU SEE.


As if it'll be that easy.
AFTER HEARING THAT, THE STENCH SEEMS TO DISPERSE A LITTLE.
HMM ...

YOU'D BETTER STOP NOW.
THIS INVOLVES YOUR LIFE.
I'm not hallucinating.
It's echoing directly into my head.
NO...
THIS WON'T BE THAT EASY A TEST.
SEE THE EXPRESSION ON RAIN'S FACE. IT SAYS A LOT ...

PRIN-
CESS!
THE FOOTSTEPS IT TAKES, THE GROWLING IT MAKES, THE STENCH IT RELEASES ...
THEY ARE ALL MAGIC THAT DECEIVES YOU.
AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE ALL ILLUSIONS, THE MAGIC WILL DEFINITELY BE INEF-FECTIVE AGAINST YOU!
I'M AN EXPERT IN THIS SORT OF THING SO PLEASE BELIEVE ME!!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TURN BACK!!

THAT'S WHY I WILL PROVE IT TO YOU.
Rain...
Someday...

THIS FEELING WILL REACH YOUR HEART.

RAIN

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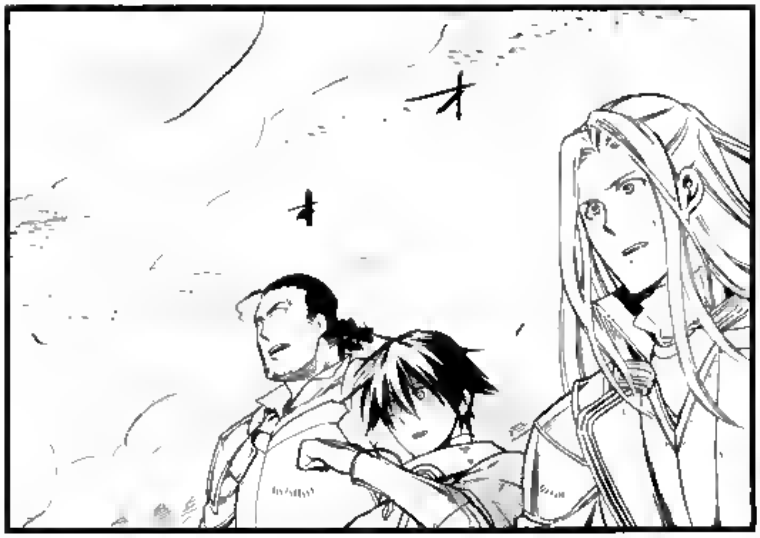
I had a dream.
In that dream, I had an older brother who was stronger and kinder than anyone else.
Someday, I will surely meet that older brother again.
He will play with me.
And tell me a lot of stories.
There are so many things I want to tell him.

CHAPTER 32.

A DEMON'S SHADOW.



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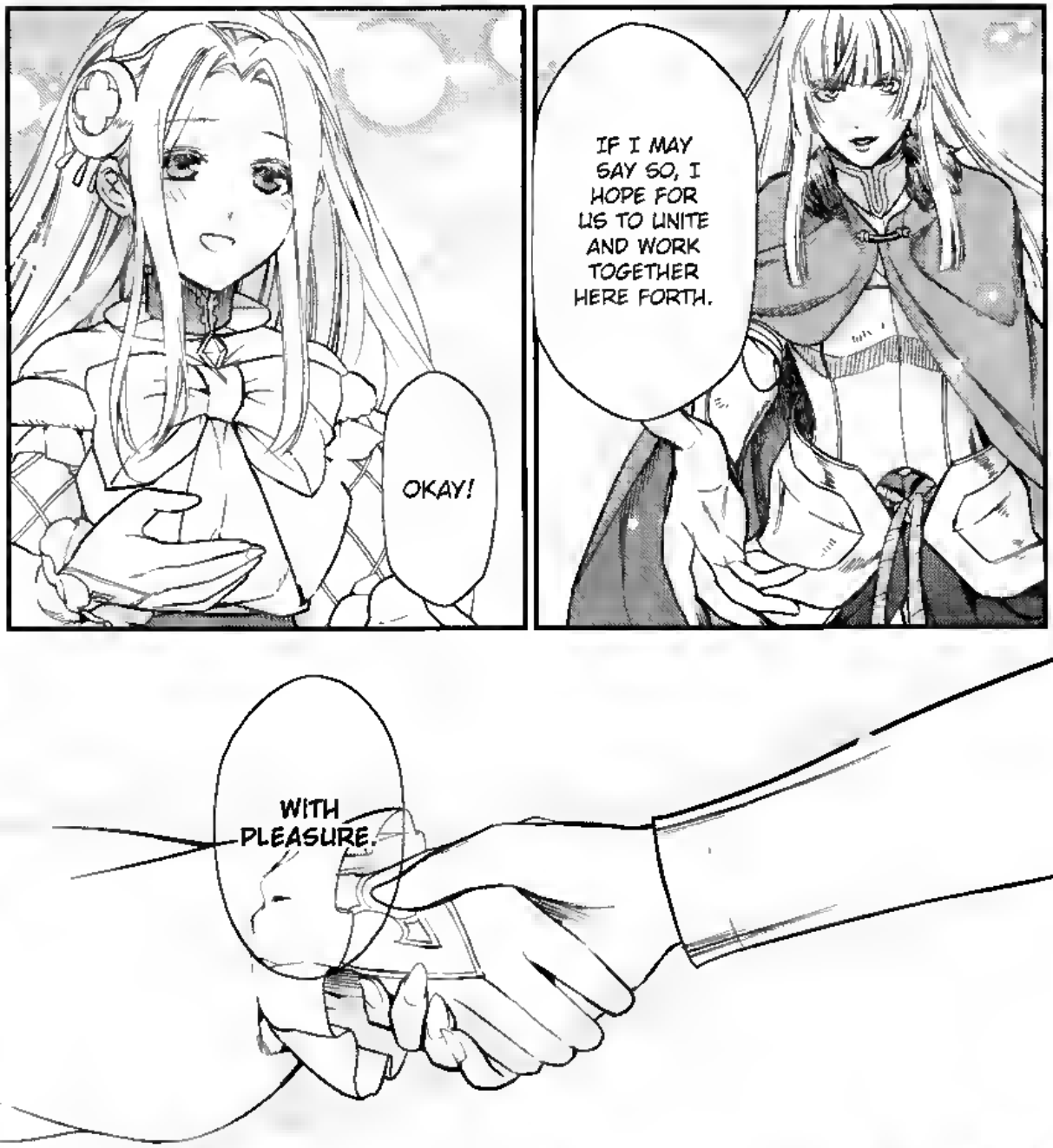
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR THE UNRULY REMARKS I'VE MADE UP UNTIL TODAY.
DUE TO MY OWN SELFISHNESS, I HAVE PROLONGED THIS BATTLE AND CAUSED UNNECESSARY TROUBLES.
I AM TRULY SORRY.

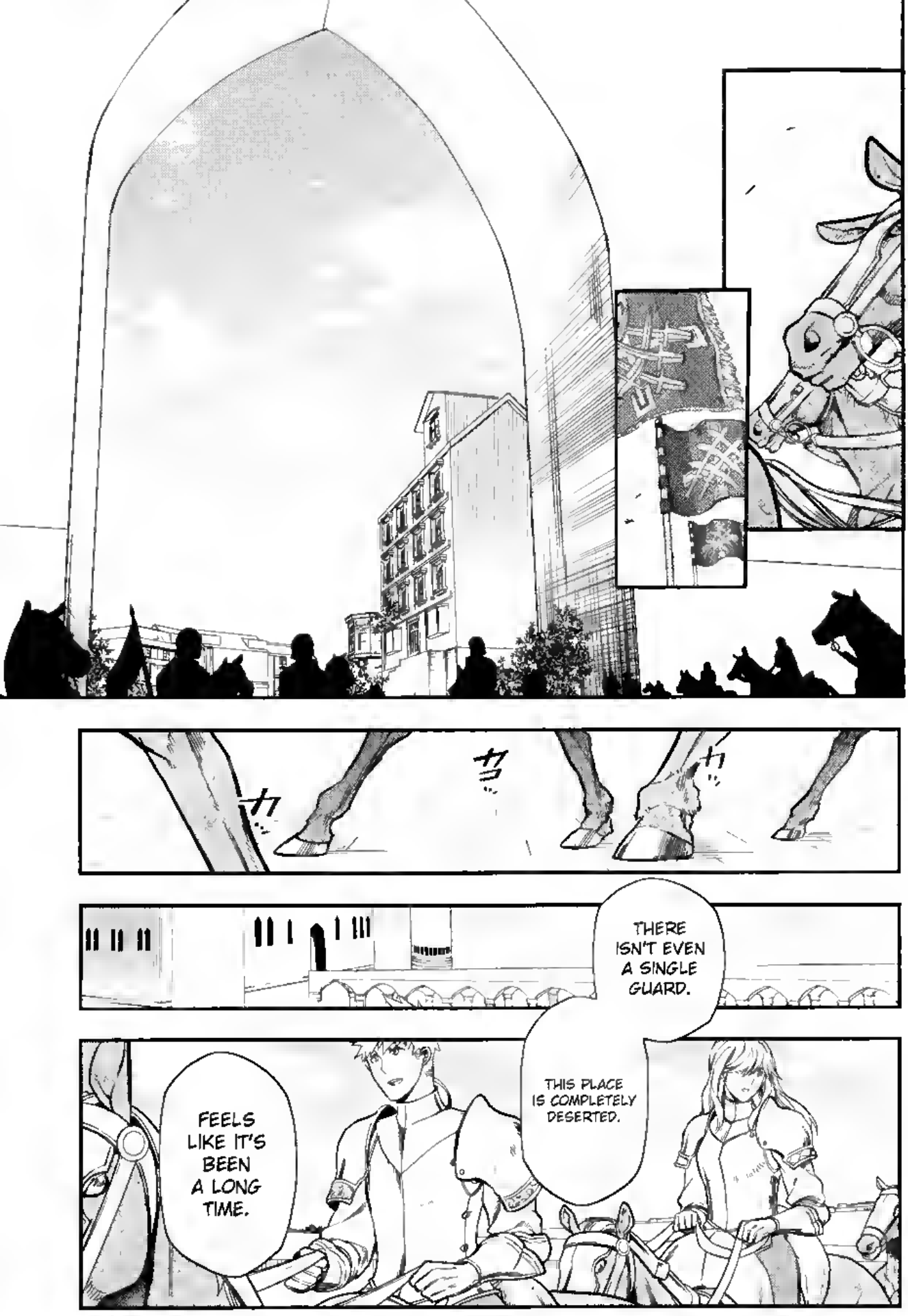

OKAY!
IF I MAY SAY SO, I HOPE FOR US TO UNITE AND WORK TOGETHER HERE FORTH.
WITH PLEASURE.

After a prolonged and unsettling period, the war with Syandrys was successfully avoided.
The critical situation that both countries had just faced felt like a dream.

I SEE.
I UNDER-STAND.
I RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM GALFORT.
PARDON ME.
THEN...
AS PROMISED, WE WILL RELEASE YOU.

THE ALLIANCE HAS BEEN FORMED.
ZARTS!
JUNNA!
LONG TIME NO SEE, ZARTS!
LET GO OF ME, SEYL!!
I WASN'T CALLING FOR YOU!!

HA HA HA ...
JUNNA !!!
YOU SAID SOMETHING BAD TO BIG BROTHER...


カッ
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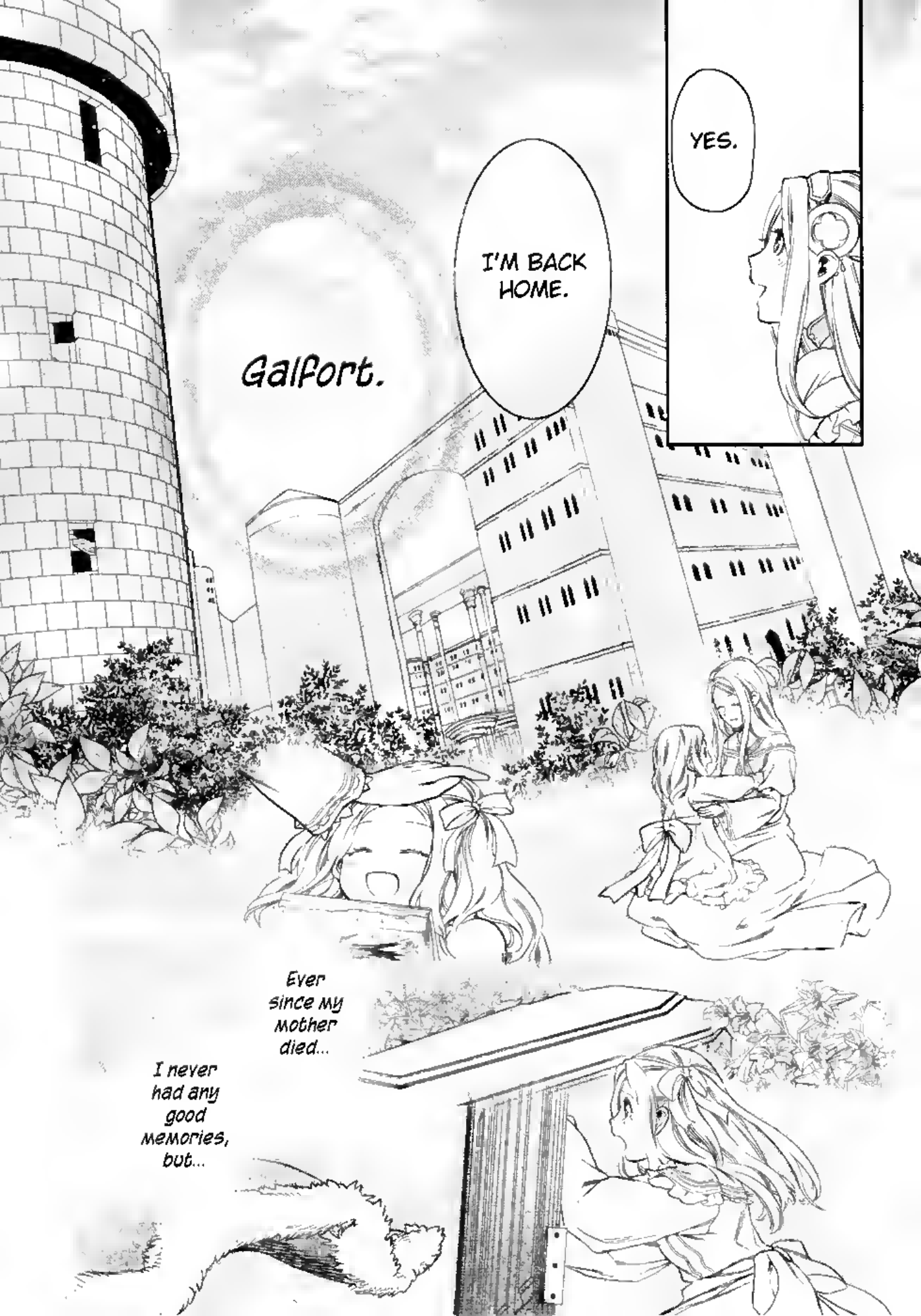
THERE ISN'T EVEN A SINGLE GUARD.
THIS PLACE IS COMPLETELY DESERTED.
FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

PRINCESS.
WELCOME HOME.
YOUR HIGHNESS, IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE WE CAME BACK.


YES.
I'M BACK HOME.
Galfort.
Ever since my mother died...
I never had any good memories, but...

...First?

No.
Here...?
Way...
Before...

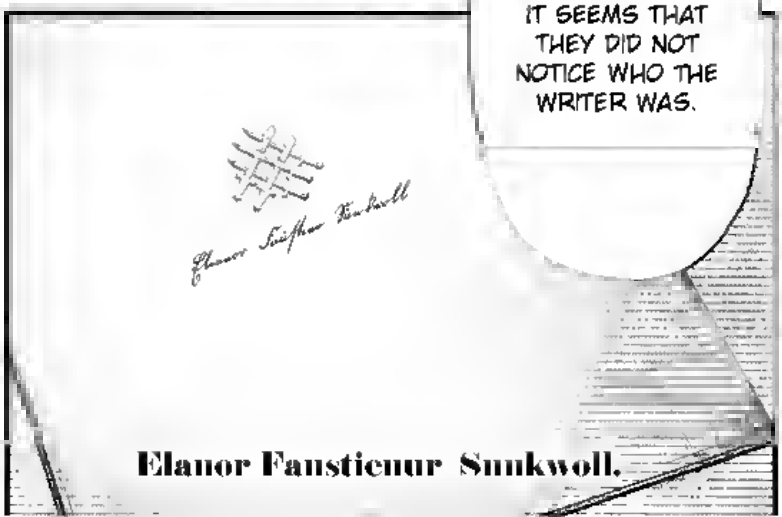
PRIN-
CESS
!!
I
TOLD YOU
TO STOP,
DIDN'T I?
STUPID
CHILD.

AND THIS IS ANOTHER REPORT WITH REGARDS TO A DIFFERENT MATTER
SO THE ALLIANCE HAS BEEN FORMED.
I SEE.
YES.
ARE YOU SURE, MY LORD?
THROW IT AWAY.
THE ONE BEHIND THIS IS CURRENTLY ON AN EXPEDITION TO LUNAN TO...
THE CONTENT REVEALS AN INFLUENTIAL ACTION ABOUT TO BE CARRIED OUT ON A CERTAIN PERSON CALLED SAPHIR.
REGARDLESS, THE REBELLION IS BOUND TO CEASE, AM I RIGHT?
THAT PERSON IS THERE AFTER ALL.

LADY JUNNA FOUND THIS IN THE GUEST ROOM OF CASTLE COTECREAS.
WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS?
NO...A PROPHETIC SCRIPT.
DIARY ABOUT DREAMS ...

I OVERHEARD THEIR CONVERSATION, SO I SUPPOSE I KNOW THE GIST OF IT.
HAVE YOU READ IT?

IT WAS PROBABLY TRANSPORTED ALONG WITH THE OTHER TREASURES FROM GALFORT CASTLE AT THAT TIME.
IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THAT THIS SORT OF THING WOULD BE FOUND IN A FELIDAL LORD'S CASTLE.

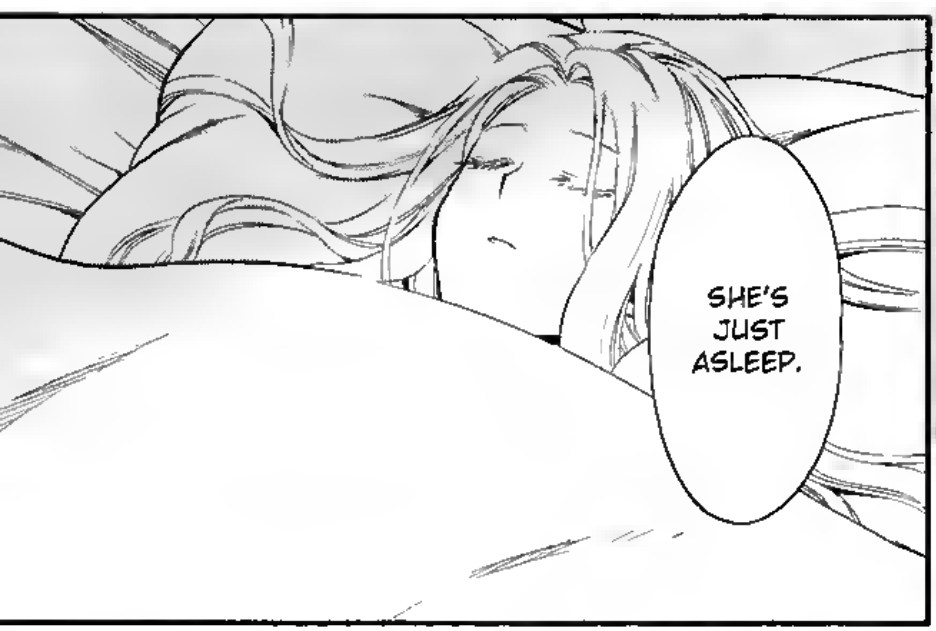

THEY WERE HAVING DOUBTS UPON FINISHING THE BOOK, BUT IT SEEMS THAT THEY DID NOT NOTICE WHO THE WRITER WAS.
Elanor Faustienur Sunkwoll

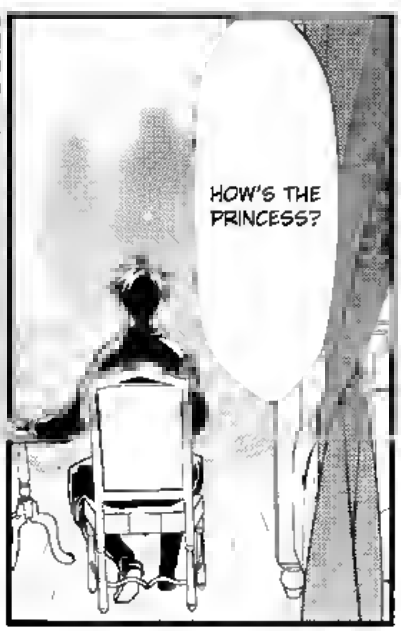
A STORY ABOUT YOUR PAST OF WHICH THE WRITER SHOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN.

RAIN!
IS IT TRUE THAT LADY SHELFA COLLAPSED?

MAGIC VISION.
JOE?

FOLNIER, WHY ARE YOU...
SHE WAS BEING PUSHED PAST HER LIMITS!
SINCE I WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE HER THE TEST, I HAVE TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY!
PLEASE CALM DOWN, LADY FOL.


SHE'S JUST ASLEEP.


HOW'S THE PRINCESS?

AH.
IT'S NOT A TECHNIQUE TO BE USED AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
IF THE ILLUSION TECHNIQUE WERE TO AFFECT HER EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT, SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AT THAT TIME.
IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF YOUR TEST.
SHE CAN FINALLY BE AT EASE SINCE THE ALLIANCE HAS BEEN FORMED.
NO MATTER THE PRESENT SITUATION, THAT WILL REMAIN TO BE THE TRUTH. SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND OPEN UP A LITTLE MORE TO THE PRINCESS?
THE PRINCESS CERTAINLY SHOWED US HER TRUST IN YOU BY BREAKING THAT TECHNIQUE.
!
JOE JELVARD.
IS THIS ALSO PART OF YOUR LINEAGE? YOU'RE WAY TOO SIMILAR TO RALPHUS,
GOOD SERMON.

ACCORDING TO HISTORY, HUH.
THE REASON WHY YOU HAD TO CONCEAL YOURSELF WAS DUE TO YOUR LINEAGE, HUH?
THAT PERSON IS ALREADY DEAD.
MY MOTHER WAS A DEMON.
THE KING OF HEROES OF THE HOLY WAR IS BOTH A FRIEND AND FOE.
INDEED.
KING REYGUL, HUH...
I SENSED A SIMILAR PRESENCE FROM YOU.
I HAVE CROSSED SWORDS WITH A REAL DEMON ONCE.
JUST THAT I DIDN'T HAVE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE.
I KNOW.

W...
BUT HE'S PROBABLY AN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG DEMON.
AMONG THE ONES I FOUGHT AGAINST, THERE WASN'T ANYONE LIKE THAT.
I THOUGHT THAT THE KING OF A GREAT COUNTRY BEING A DEMON WAS JUST STREET RUMOR..
HE ACTED AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED AFTER I STABBED HIM THROUGH THE HEART WITH A DEMONIC SWORD.
BUT YOU SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE HIM.
REALLY?
SOMEHOW, I FEEL AT EASE AS LONG AS MY COUNTRY IS CONCERNED.
THERE WASN'T A WAY TO DEFEAT THE DEMONS... RIGHT?
THAT, I KNOW.
ONCE, DURING THE HOLY WAR, ACCORDING TO A CERTAIN INFORMATION PASSED DOWN THE STREETS, DEMONS WERE BEING REPELLED BY HUMANS, BUT...

I WILL CLEAR UP THE MESS, SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED ON WITH THE CORONATION ONCE THE PRINCESS WAKES.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

APART FROM ZARMIN, THERE IS ANOTHER APPROACHING ENEMY THAT YOU SHOULD HANDLE FIRST, SHOULDN'T YOU?
CALL HIM A WORTH-LESS ENEMY IF YOU'D LIKE...

NOT TO FORGET THE CELEBRATION FOR OUR ALLIANCE. WE'LL MAKE SURE IT TURNS OUT GREAT, SO JUST WAIT FOR IT.

WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

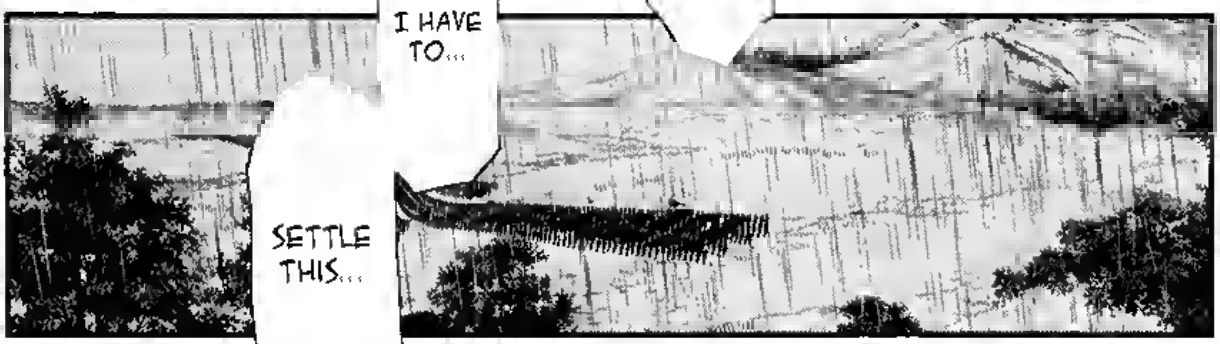
NOW THEN, HOW'S EVERYTHING?
POST-WAR ACTIVITIES ARE WELL.
MANY ARE FATIGUED AND THERE ARE VOICES OF CONCERNS FOR OUR UNCONSCIOUS MASTER.
THAT IS PRECISELY WHY OUR VICTORY WILL BE THEIR REWARD AND THE INDIVIDUAL CAPTAINS, WHOM WE MUST THANK, ARE GIVING THEM ENCOURAGEMENT AND PUTTING EVERYTHING IN ORDER.
WE HAVE ALSO ALLOWED THEM SUFFICIENT REST AS PER YOUR OFFICIAL NOTICE.
WE ARE READY TO DEPART ANYTIME.
GOOD WORK.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

I'M NOT TOO SURE ABOUT THIS, BUT SHE'S NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON.
EVEN IF HER INNER SELF WERE TO APPEAR, THE PEOPLE AROUND HER WON'T BE HARMED.
SINCE SHE WON'T WAKE FOR THE TIME BEING, I'LL PUT UP A BARRIER, JUST IN CASE.
YES.
ACCORDING TO JOE, HER REAL IDENTITY HAD BEEN FORCED INSIDE, BUT JUST TO BE SURE.
I'LL LEAVE THE HINT TALMA LEFT BEHIND WITH YOU.
WELL, I'LL BE GOING THEN.
TO SETTLE THE LAST OF OUR INTERNAL DISSENT.

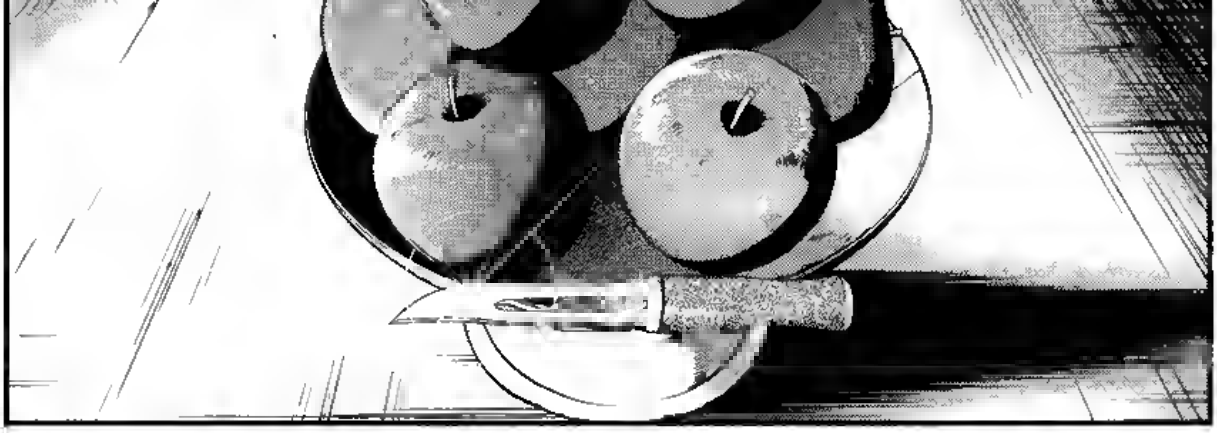
Great Arc Castle.
THE ALLIANCE WITH SYANDRYS HAS BEEN FORMED.
THE PRINCESS' ARMY IS BOUND TO ATTACK THIS PLACE TOMORROW...
ONLY NOBLES LIKE US ESCAPED TO THIS PLACE.
AT MOST, WE WOULD ONLY HAVE A FEW HUNDRED SOLDIERS.
A CLOSE FRIEND OF LORD SHADARK'S WAS FURIOUS WHEN HE WAS BROUGHT HERE.
OF COURSE!
WHO WOULD WANT TO ALLY WITH A DEFEATED PERSON?
LORD SAPHIR'S REIGN... IS OVER.

NO ONE WILL
AS
A KING
ALISS!

NO...


I HAVE TO...

SETTLE THIS...



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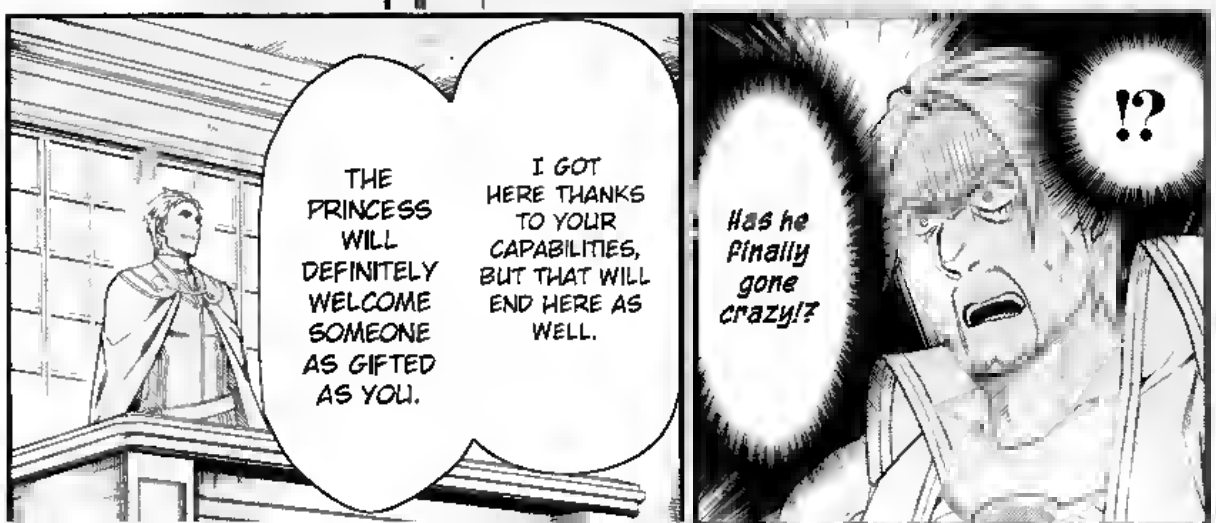
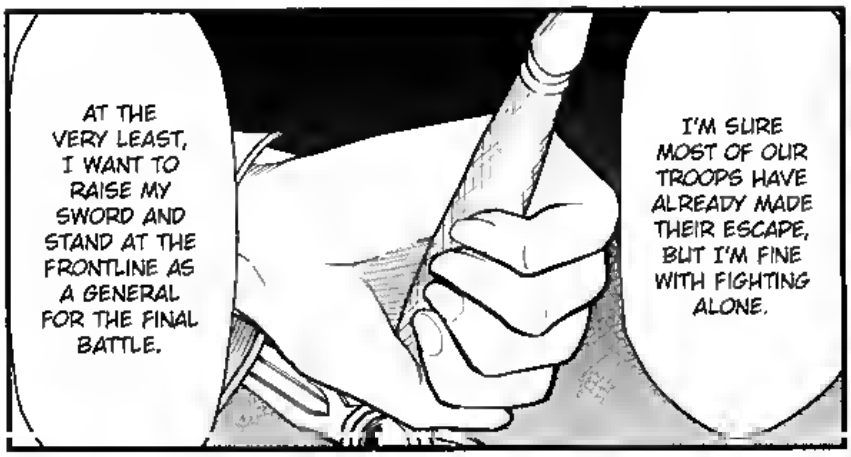
Never has anyone witnessed the story of a noble from his rise until his fall this closely before.
THE GUARDS HERE HAVE ESCAPED AS WELL...
EVEN THOUGH THE MASTER HAS BEEN COOPING HIMSELF UP IN HIS ROOM EVERY DAY...
Is he drinking right now? Or maybe he's with women.
Or maybe he's trembling with fear ...
YOUR HIGHNESS.
IT'S LUDICC.
PARDON ME...
!?

LUDICC.
I SINCERELY GIVE YOU MY THANKS FOR YOUR LOYALTY UP UNTIL TODAY.
YOUR... HIGHNESS ...!?
YOU DID WELL.
I WAS CERTAINLY BLESSED WITH A GREAT ATTENDANT.

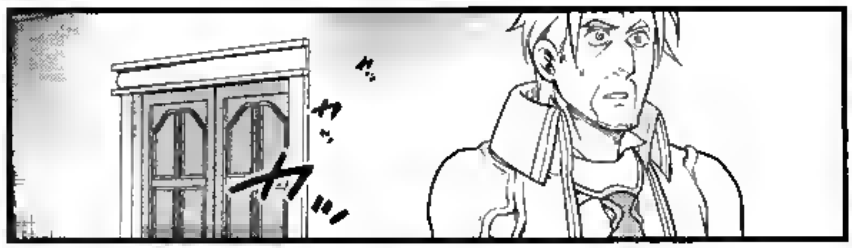
CHAPTER. 33
THE LAST DINNER.


I GOT HERE THANKS TO YOUR CAPABILITIES, BUT THAT WILL END HERE AS WELL.
THE PRINCESS WILL DEFINITELY WELCOME SOMEONE AS GIFTED AS YOU.
!?
Has he finally gone crazy!?

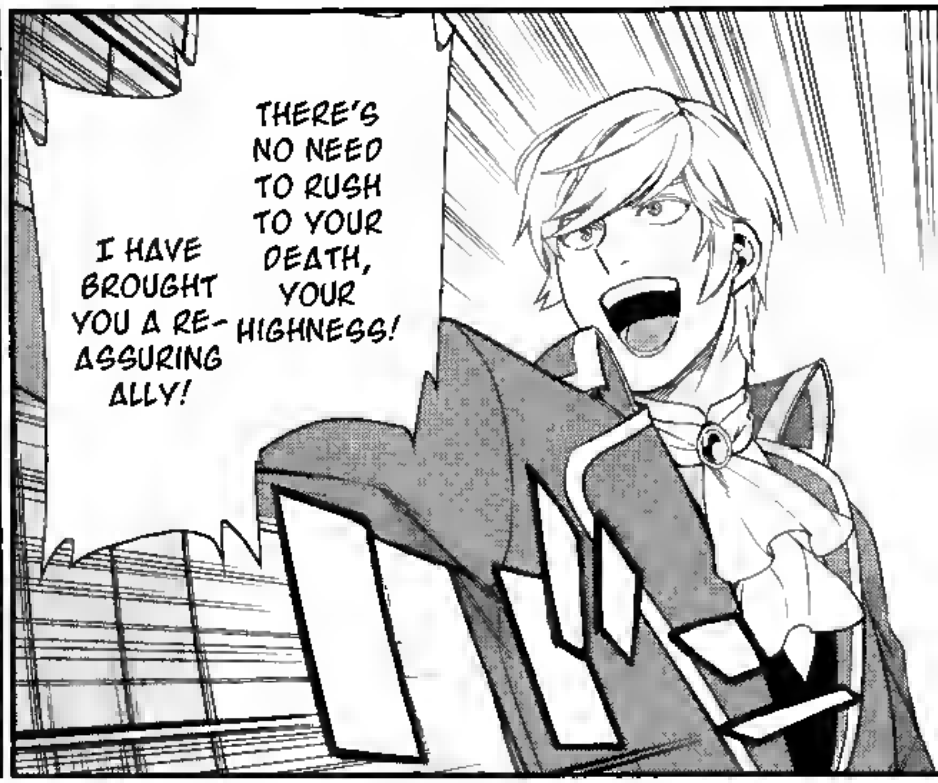
I WOULD LIKE TO REWARD YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS UP TILL THIS DAY WITH MY ASSETS, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I'M UNABLE TO DO THAT.
AT THE VERY LEAST, TAKE THIS MONEY.
AN ARRANGEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE.
Was that... empathy?
THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME.
I PRAY FOR YOUR GOOD HEALTH.
THE PRINCESS' ARMY IS PROBABLY ON THEIR WAY HERE!
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO, YOUR HIGHNESS?
He's serious.

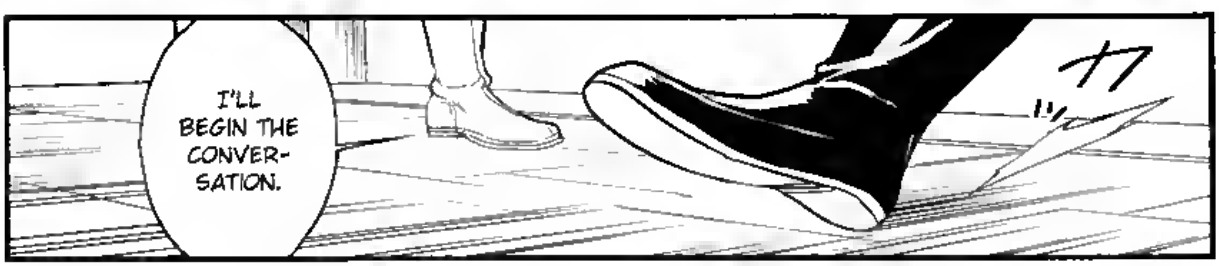

AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANT TO RAISE MY SWORD AND STAND AT THE FRONTLINE AS A GENERAL FOR THE FINAL BATTLE.
I'M SURE MOST OF OUR TROOPS HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR ESCAPE, BUT I'M FINE WITH FIGHTING ALONE.

FIGHT.



SHADACK!?
DID YOU SAY, "ALLY"?


I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A RE-ASSURING ALLY!
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH TO YOUR DEATH, YOUR HIGHNESS!


I'LL BEGIN THE CONVER-SATION.

YOU'RE...
GANOA !?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, LORD SAPHIR.
HONESTLY, I THINK IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU WERE DEFEATED.
IS THAT LUDICC?
YOUR MANNER OF SPEAKING IS NOTHING LIKE A VISCOUNT'S.
HOW DARE YOU STEP INTO THIS PLACE SO SHAME-LESSLY!
YOU RAISED YOUR HAND AGAINST THE KING, YOU TRAITOR ...

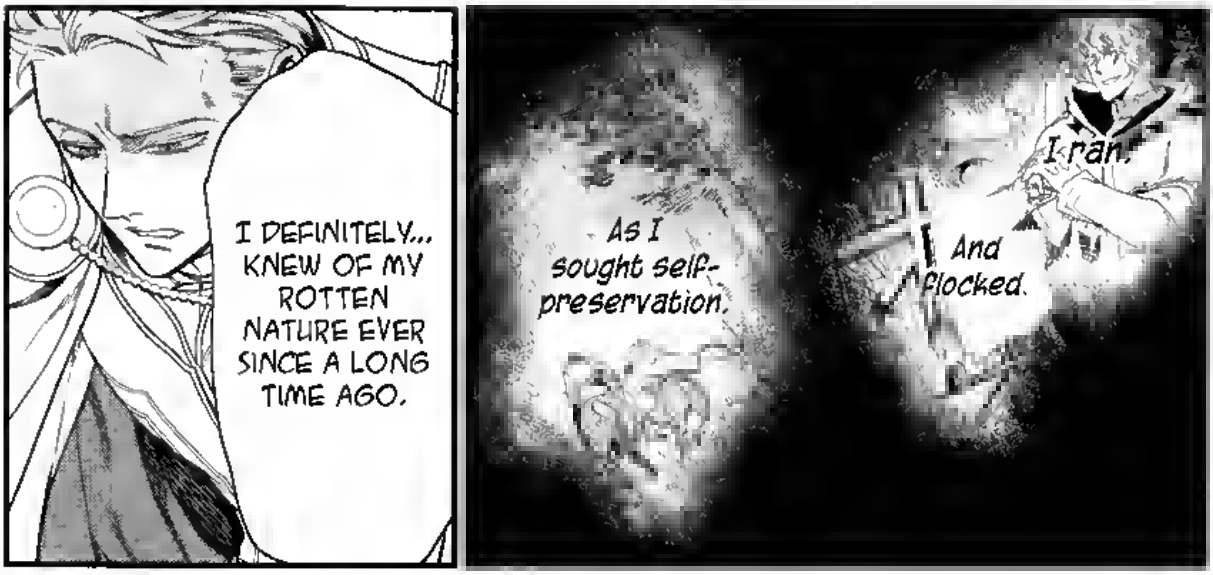
HMPH.
LORD GANOA! WE HAVE TO PROCEED WITH THE DISCUSSION!
IT IS BECAUSE OF KING REYGUL'S BENEVOLENCE, HE UNDERSTOOD YOUR PREDICAMENT AND SAID THE FOLLOWING...
WHEN I HEARD THAT MY FORMER COMRADE HAD FLED, THE FIRST THING I DID WAS TO SPEAK WITH MY MASTER.
NOW THEN, LORD SAPHIR.
!!
HOW ABOUT HE FLEES TO ZARMIN...

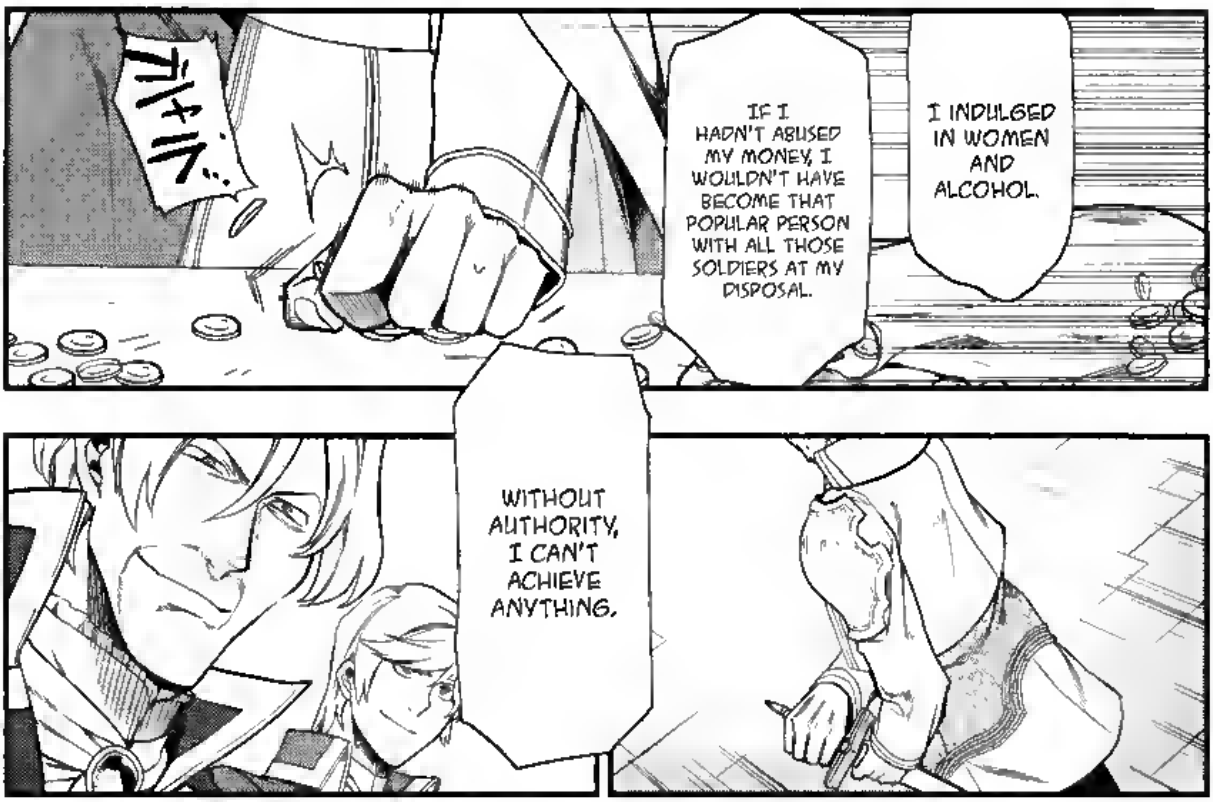
WHAT DO YOU SAY? IT'S A GOOD OFFER, ISN'T IT?
WE WILL SEND OUR TROOPS TO TAKE BACK WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS FROM THAT PRINCESS
AND PRECISELY BECAUSE YOU ARE THE LEGITIMATE SUCCESSOR OF SUNKWOLL'S THRONE, CERTAIN EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PREPARED TO DECLARE YOUR SUPREMACY ONCE AGAIN.
AS IF WE'LL SELL OUR COUNTRY TO THAT RUMORED DEMON AGAIN!!
ARE YOU MAD? YOU BASTARD!
THE THRONE ...
EVEN IF THIS INVOLVES THE THRONE, ZARMIN WILL ONLY ENSLAVE YOU AND MAKE YOU A PUPPET GOVERNMENT!
THIS IS WITHOUT A DOUBT ANOTHER ATTEMPT FOR INVASION!
DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, YOUR HIGHNESS!

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY, LORD SAPHIR?
SHADACK IS HERE FOR THE SAME REASON OF EXPECTING A GOOD REPLY FROM YOU.
IT'S ONLY LOGICAL FOR US AS SUBORDINATES TO MERELY CARRY OUT OUR KING'S ORDERS.
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SUCH PERSISTENCE.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULL-CRAP, YOU TRAITOR.

I have no intention of casting away my pride as a knight.
Knowing that he will become a puppet, will he still cling on to the throne even if it's just by name?
At this time, this person is but one who has given up on everything regardless of his appearance.
SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
Even if I can't desire the victory of my soldiers.
Depending on his reply.
I will cut down the others.

A LONG TIME AGO, SOMEONE TOLD ME THIS.
"A PERSON'S TRUE WORTH WILL BECOME EVIDENT WHEN HE IS HUNG BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH."
I RAN AWAY...
ON THE VERGE OF DEATH.


I DEFINITELY... KNEW OF MY ROTTEN NATURE EVER SINCE A LONG TIME AGO.
As I sought self-preservation.
I ran.
And flocked.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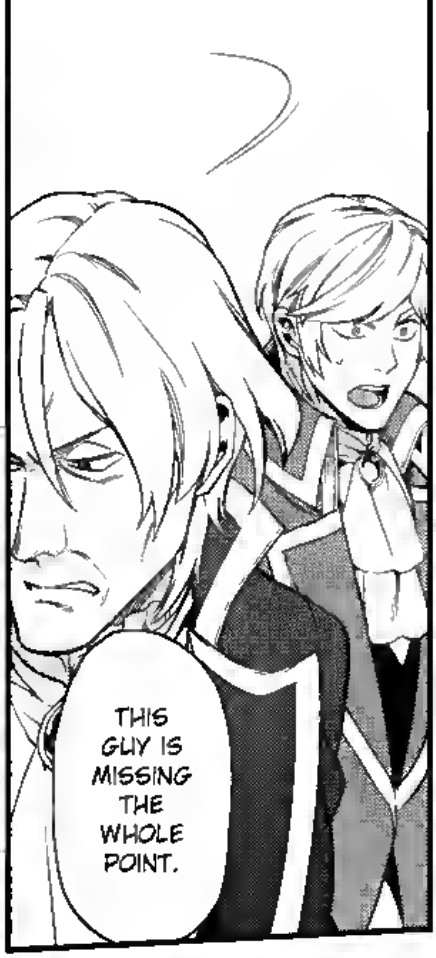
I INDULGED IN WOMEN AND ALCOHOL.
IF I HADN'T ABUSED MY MONEY, I WOULDN'T HAVE BECOME THAT POPULAR PERSON WITH ALL THOSE SOLDIERS AT MY DISPOSAL.
WITHOUT AUTHORITY, I CAN'T ACHIEVE ANYTHING.

THAT'S WHY... GANOA.

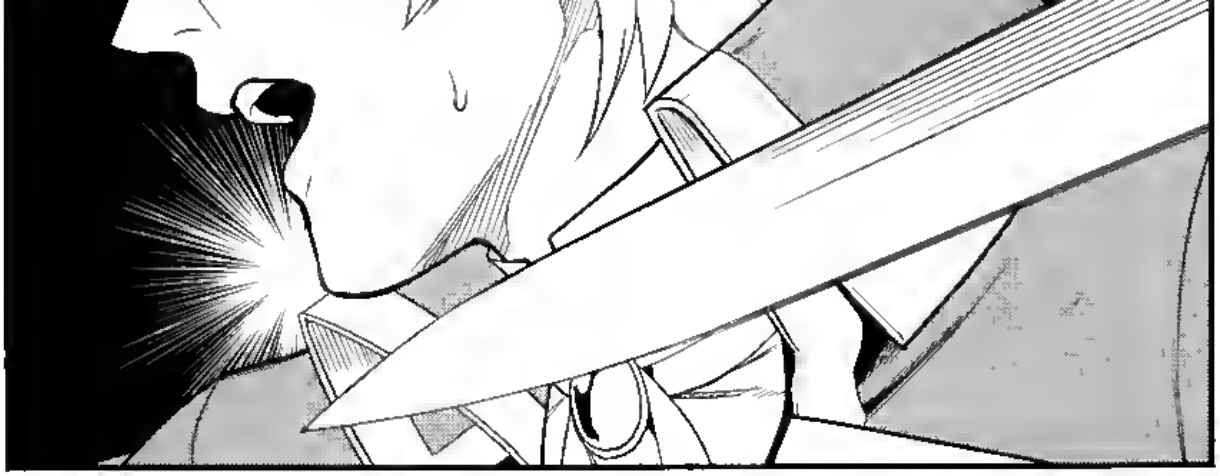
I...
I WILL HAVE TO TURN DOWN YOUR OFFER.
DON'T WANT TO...
HATE MYSELF ANYMORE THAN THIS.

NATURALLY, I WOULD HAVE CUT ALL OF YOU DOWN, BUT I WISH TO AVOID AGITATING ZARMIN FOR NOW.
YOU HEARD HIS MAJESTY'S ANSWER.
HMPH.
SO HURRY UP AND LEAVE!


THIS GUY IS MISSING THE WHOLE POINT.

IT WAS A COMPLETE WASTE OF MY TIME TO EVEN STEP INTO THIS PLACE.
AH.
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SAY IT.

PLEASE WAIT, LORD GANOA! I, TOO...



IT'S ONLY LOGICAL FOR SUBORDINATES TO CARRY OUT THE ORDERS OF THEIR KING, YOU SAID?
SHADACK.

I...
I...

Since it has come to this...
the testament
I HAVE EXECUTED THE TRAITOR OF THIS COUNTRY.
I APOLOGIZE FOR DIRTYING YOUR ROOM.
NO... HIS BETRAYAL WAS YET ANOTHER PROOF OF MY INCAPABILITY IN DISCERNING PEOPLE.
YOU NEVER FAIL TO IMPRESS ME UNTIL THE VERY END, LUDICC.

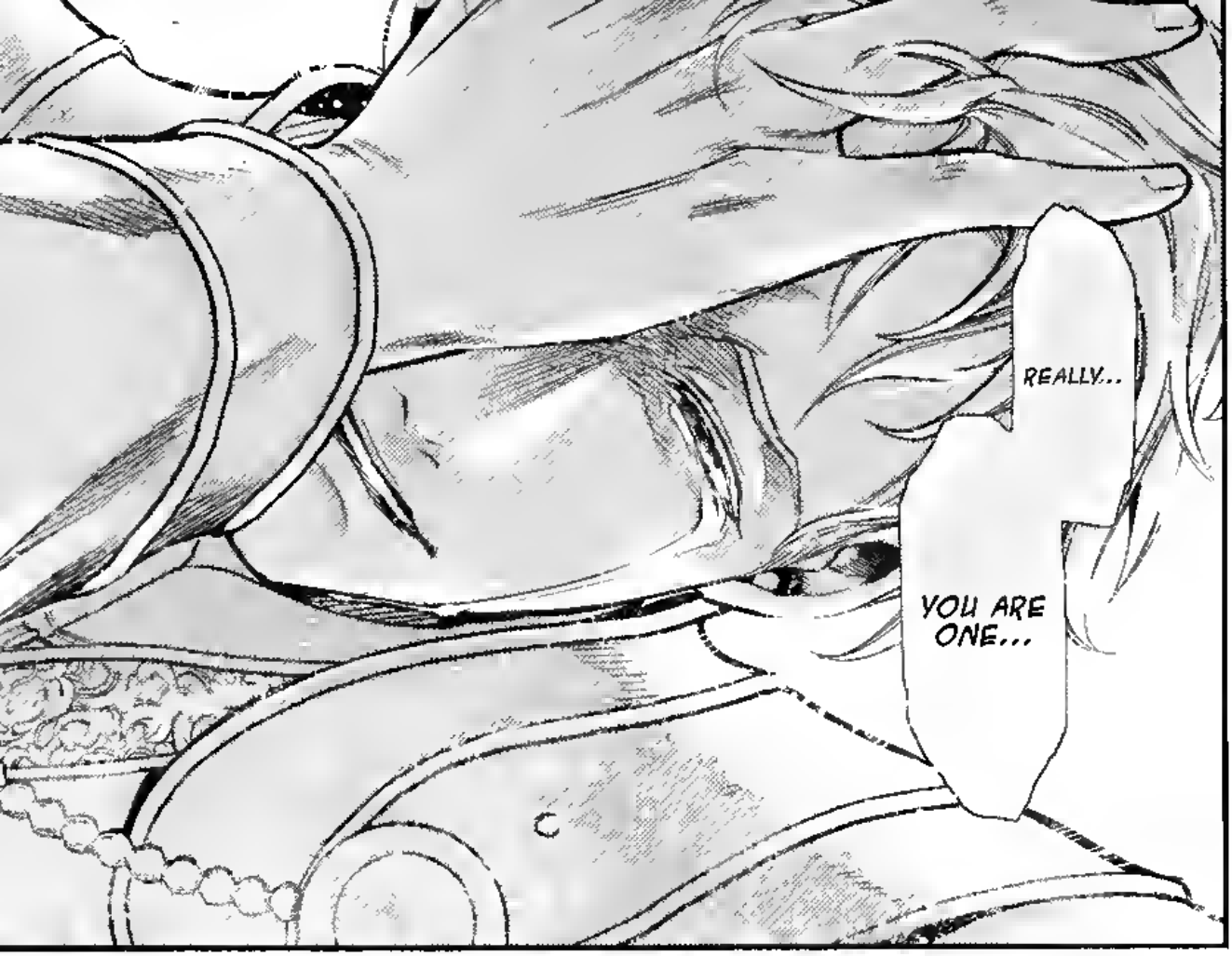
I WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE ...
YOUR MAJESTY UNTIL THE VERY END OF THE END.
EH...
THE VERY END? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ズル
ドサッ
YOUR MAJESTY!!

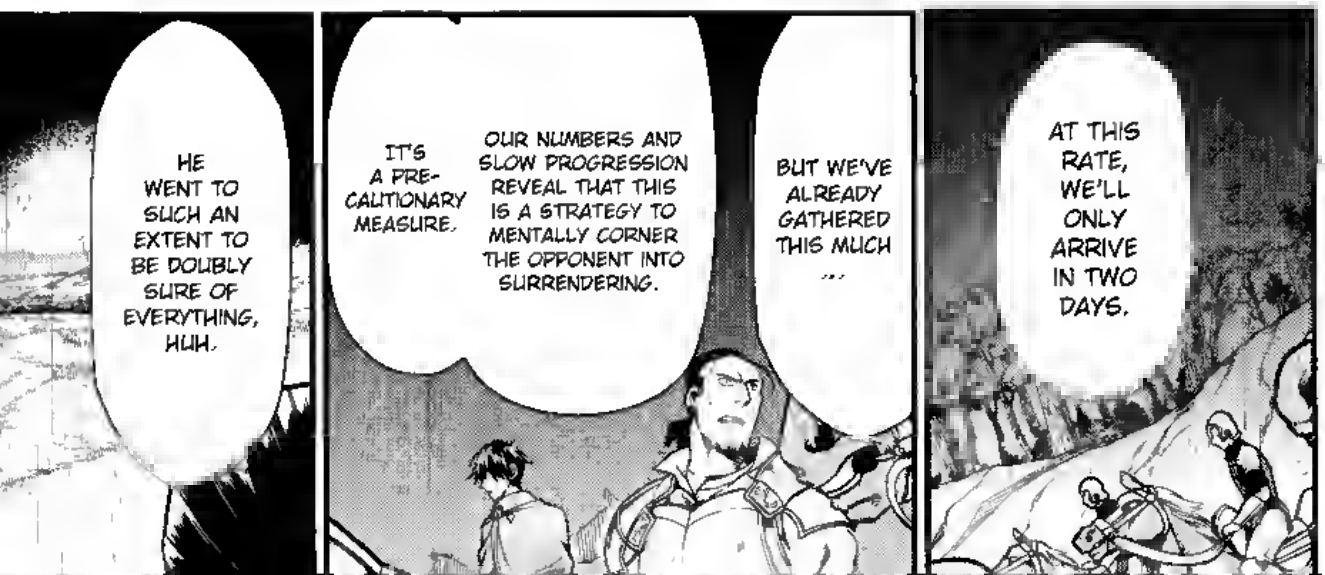
HA... HAHA...
I'M EXHAUSTED..

EVEN THOUGH I WANTED YOU TO REMEMBER ME AS A GOOD MASTER...
AT LEAST... AT THE VERY END, I WANTED TO SEND YOU OFF AS A GOOD MASTER...
A...

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WHAT A STUBBORN PERSON...
HAHA...

I HAVE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND, SO PLEASE SPARE ME THE EXPLA-NATIONS.


REALLY...
YOU ARE ONE...


HE WENT TO SUCH AN EXTENT TO BE DOUBLY SURE OF EVERYTHING, HUH.
IT'S A PRE-CAUTIONARY MEASURE.
OUR NUMBERS AND SLOW PROGRESSION REVEAL THAT THIS IS A STRATEGY TO MENTALLY CORNER THE OPPONENT INTO SURRENDERING.
BUT WE'VE ALREADY GATHERED THIS MUCH ...
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL ONLY ARRIVE IN TWO DAYS.

HE SURE IS PRETTY LENIENT...
TONIGHT SURE IS COLD.
DESPITE THAT, YOU ARE ALL STILL WORKING, SO WELL DONE.
WHO GOES THERE!
!
STATE YOUR PURPOSE!
MY NAME IS RAIN, AND I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH THE MASTER OF THIS CASTLE.

YO!

KEEP YOUR SWORD AWAY AS WELL.
IT'S NOT VERY POLITE TO GREET SOMEONE WHO CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO VISIT US WHILE WE ARE ARMED.

A GUARD REPORTED THAT HE HAD LEFT HIS SWORD WITH THE GATEKEEPER, DIDN'T HE?
LEAVE IT, LUDICC.

HAVE YOU CONDUCTED A FULL BODY CHECK ON HIM?

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE BRING IN SOME DRINKS AND SNACKS FOR US.
THE REST OF YOU, PLEASE LEAVE THE ROOM AS WELL.
Y... YES SIR!

IN ANY CASE, HE'S CAPABLE OF TAKING US DOWN UNARMED ANYWAY.

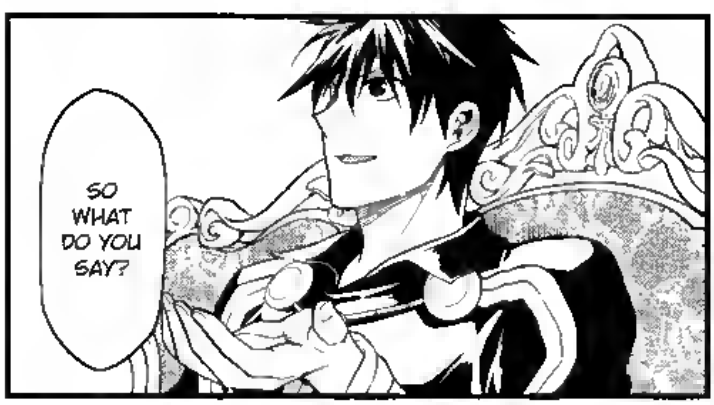
I HEARD THAT YOU DROVE GANOA AWAY.
AH, HE OFFERED ME A CHANCE TO FLEE.
I'M SURPRISED.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THE STRONGEST GENERAL WOULD COME ALL THE WAY TO THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLD.
YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM HOSTAGE AND DEMANDED RANSOM.
THAT HURTS.
I WAS UNIMAGINABLY RUDE TO THE EMPRESS AND HER SUBORDINATES.
SO I'M REFLECTING UPON MY ACTIONS.

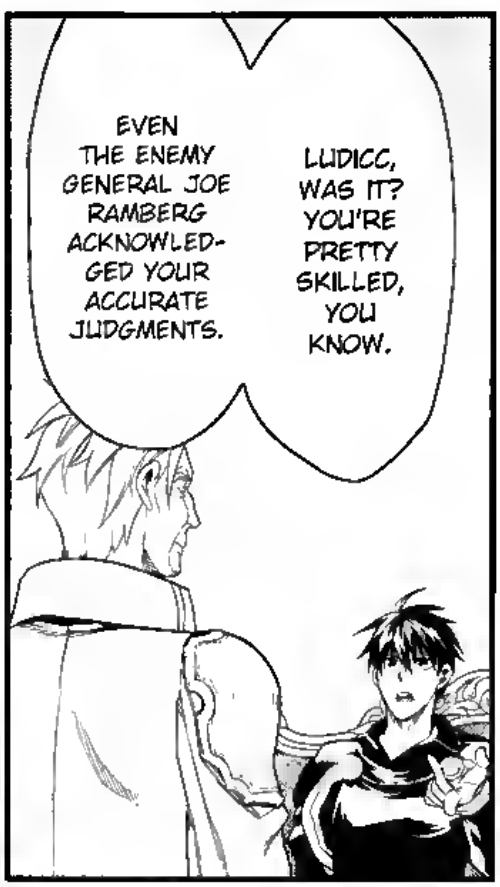
NO.
フゥ…
I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY HERE TO CHECK ON THAT?
I SEE, SO YOU'RE NOT PUTTING UP AN ACT.
DO YOU WANT TO RECONCILE?
YOU REALLY DO GET TO THE POINT.

WE HAVE NOBLES ON OUR SIDE AS WELL.
IT'S DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO KILL THEIR FELLOW NOBLES.

I'M NOT GOING TO STOP THE ONES WHO WANT TO SURRENDER, BUT I WILL FIGHT TO THE VERY END.
I WILL AS WELL.

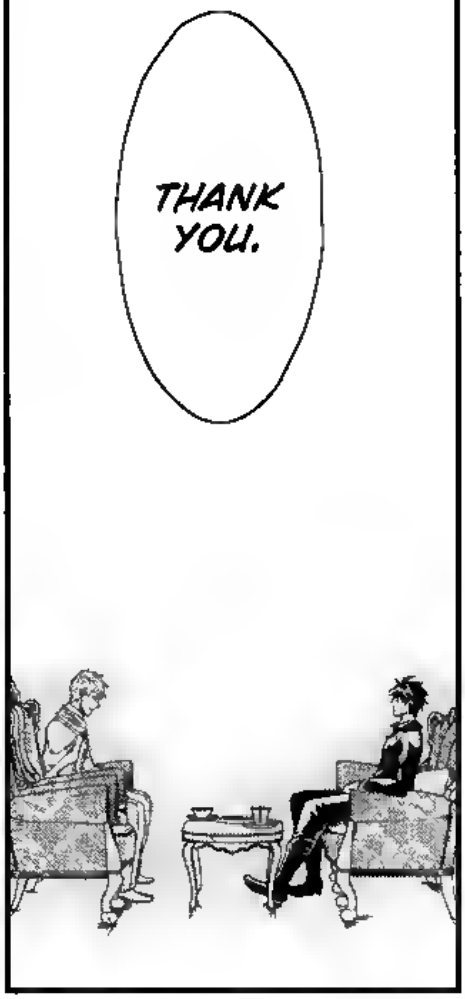
SAPHIR, WHAT YOU HAVE CHANGED INTO WILL DEFINITELY MAKE YOU A GOOD GENERAL.
WE ARE STILL LACKING TALENTS ON OUR SIDE.


SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?


LUDICC, WAS IT? YOU'RE PRETTY SKILLED, YOU KNOW.
EVEN THE ENEMY GENERAL JOE RAMBERG ACKNOWLED-GED YOUR ACCURATE JUDGMENTS.

YOU NEVER ONCE USED THE WORD "SURRENDER," BUT INSTEAD USED "RECONCILE."

I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR REASSURING CONSIDERATION IN WANTING TO SAVE US.


THANK YOU.

DO YOU DOUBT ME?
NO, YOU'RE SERIOUS, AREN'T YOU?
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO DECEIVE US AS WELL.

THEN WHY DO YOU WANT TO DIE SO MUCH!?

AND THE GREATEST WEAPON BEHIND THE STAGING WAS THE WILL LEFT BEHIND BY THE PREVIOUS KING THAT ALLOWED ME TO TAKE THE THRONE.
UNDER OUR GUIDANCE, WE GATHERED THE ANTI-PRINCESS FACTION.

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT AS WELL.

IF YOU SHOW THAT YOU CAN SWEEP THIS CLEAN ONCE AND FOR ALL, YOU WILL QUELL THE REBELLION AND THERE WON'T BE ANY STRENGTH LEFT FOR OPPOSITIONS TO FORM AGAIN.

AAH-

THAT'S WHY THERE IS MEANING TO OUR DEATHS.

だんっ
DAMN IT!!
THIS IS SO HARD!
THIS IS SO UNLIKE YOU TO SUDDENLY CHANGE INTO SUCH A GOOD KID!!
IF YOU'RE THE VILLAIN, THEN PERFORM YOUR VILLAIN ROLE PROPERLY!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
カミュ
はは
EVEN I THINK THAT THIS IS INAPPROPRIATE.

HAHA
...
HEH.
EVEN NOW, I STILL DISLIKE YOU.
SAPHIR.

EVEN THOUGH WE COULDN'T SOLVE THIS PEACEFULLY.
I FEEL THE SAME.
BUT I'M GLAD THAT WE COULD TALK IT OUT THIS WAY.

RAIN!

IF ...
IF THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY IN THIS BATTLE, I'D LIKE TO HAVE A BOUT WITH YOU.
EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T FOUGHT ON HORSEBACK BEFORE, BUT...
IF MY SOLE OPPONENT IS YOU, THEN I CAN STILL BOAST ABOUT IT WHEN I GO TO HELL!

And then...

Comes the time for the internal dissension of Sunkwoll to finally end.

RAIN
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Translators & Quality Checkers
Please support the author by buying this when available
in your region/language

The opponents were the joint forces of Rain and Ralphus.
With this, they formed the greatest mobilized troops ever established, with military strength exceeding ten thousand.
Among the volunteer soldiers who were recruited throughout their journey, the experienced fighters were made to appear on the battlefield temporarily.
Alliance of nobles led by Saphir.
And the nobles who could not adapt to the Princess' revamped system gathered, amounting to an army of seven hundred soldiers.
Nobles who changed their views of Saphir upon his turning down Ganoa.

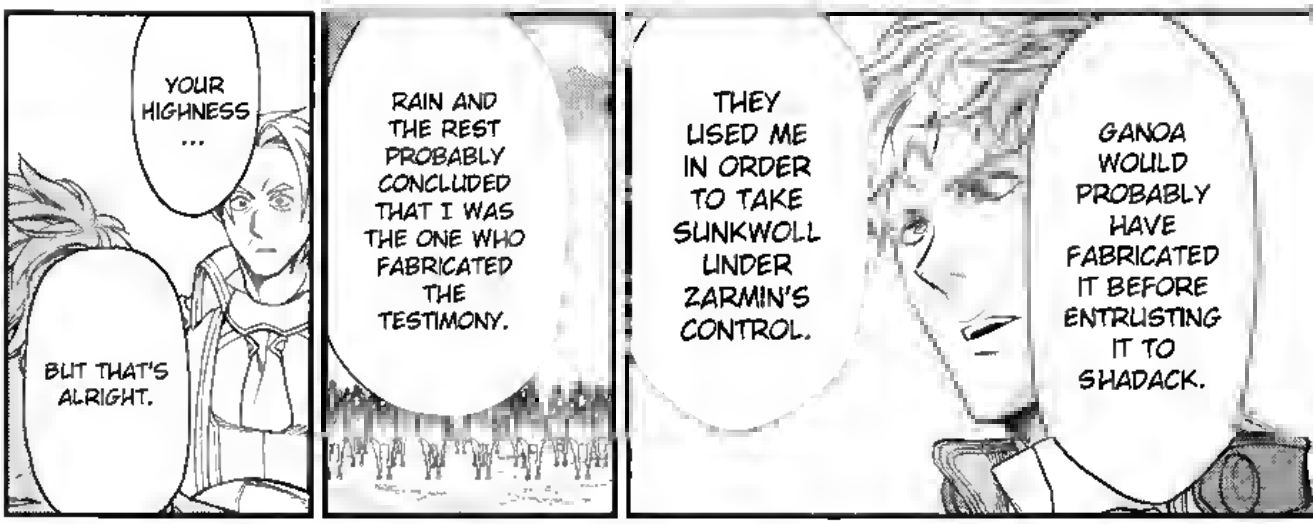
CHAPTER 34.
THE FINAL VICTORY.

FOR HIM TO JUST CHARGE THROUGH THE OPEN BATTLEFIELD WITH THIS STARK A DIFFERENCE IN MILITARY STRENGTH...

WHEN I HEARD ABOUT HIM FROM LORD RAIN, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT ENTIRELY.
HE LOOKS LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.

THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT, IF ONLY HE HAD CHANGED EARLIER.

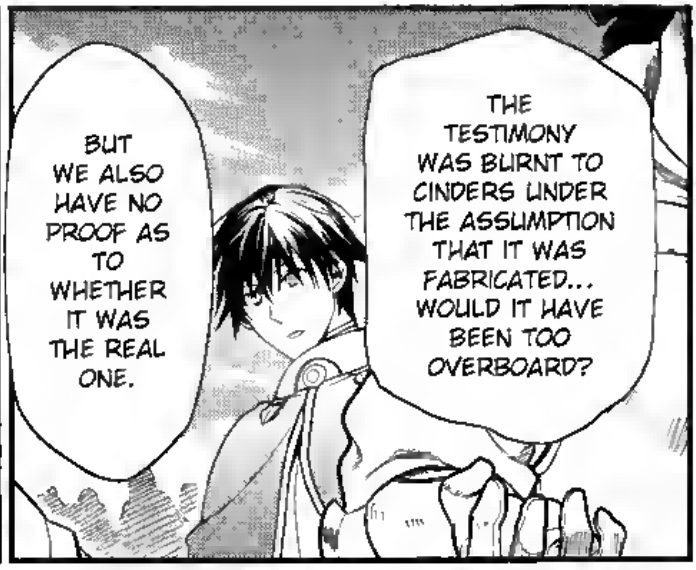
EH?
CAN WE BE SURE THAT IT WAS REALLY A FAKE?
WELL, IT WAS CHEAP OF HIM TO CONQUER A COUNTRY THROUGH A FABRICATED TESTIMONY. IT'S NO WONDER IT LED TO THIS.
Since it has come to this, even the testimony...
YOUR MAJESTY, COULD IT BE THAT THE TESTIMONY OF KING DOUGLAS THAT YOU POSSESS...
As I thought!
THE ONE WHO INFORMED ME OF THE TESTIMONY'S EXISTENCE WAS SHADACK.


YOUR HIGHNESS ...
BUT THAT'S ALRIGHT.
RAIN AND THE REST PROBABLY CONCLUDED THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO FABRICATED THE TESTIMONY.
THEY USED ME IN ORDER TO TAKE SUNKWOLL UNDER ZARMIN'S CONTROL.
GANOA WOULD PROBABLY HAVE FABRICATED IT BEFORE ENTRUSTING IT TO SHADACK.

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS NOW.
BE IT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE TESTIMONY OR OTHER PLANS THAT SHADACK HAD IN MIND, THEY WERE ALL PROBABLY OUT TO OPPOSE ME.

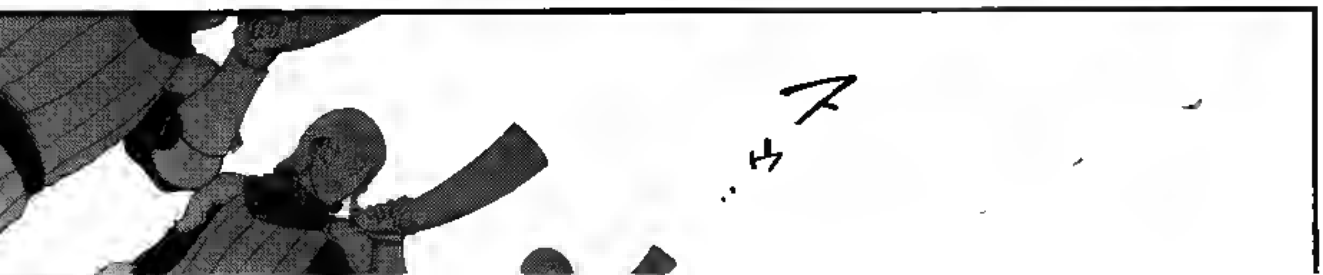
IF WE HAD CONFIRMED THAT THE TESTIMONY WAS THE REAL THING, THE PRINCESS WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS AND WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION.
FURTHERMORE, AFFIRMING THE TESTIMONY TO BE THE REAL ONE WOULD HAVE BEEN EQUIVALENT TO LABELING HER FATHER AS A CALLOUS PERSON.
IT WAS QUITE UNLIKELY FOR THE PERVIOUS KING TO HAVE INTENTIONALLY PLANNED FOR SUCH A THING AND OPENLY UPSET HER.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, BUT...

AH...
WE ALSO HAVE NO PROOF AS TO WHETHER IT HAD BEEN A FAKE ONE, BUT...


THE TESTIMONY WAS BURNT TO CINDERS UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WAS FABRICATED... WOULD IT HAVE BEEN TOO OVERBOARD?
BUT WE ALSO HAVE NO PROOF AS TO WHETHER IT WAS THE REAL ONE.

TO ME, IT WAS THE REAL ONE.

RAIN DECLARED IT AS A FAKE FOR THE SAKE OF THE PRINCESS.



NOW THAT IT HAS COME TO THIS, THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW.
LET'S GO!
VAN-GUARDS, ATTACK!

INFAN-
TRY,
DON'T
FALTER!
ARCHERS,
COVER
THEIR
BACKS!

DON'T BREAK YOUR FORMA-TIONS...
AND CONTINUE PUSHING FORWARD!

They are not even boasting about their army of ten thousand even they are only up against seven hundred.
There aren't even any loopholes.
But...
Eventually, we will be devoured.
It's reasonable to say that the one with higher number will emerge victorious in an all-out collision at an open ground.

This time... we won't run!
IS THIS REALLY SAPHIR'S ARMY?
THERE IS A REMARKABLE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR MORALE.
EVEN WITH THIS DIFFERENCE IN NUMBERS...

FOR THEM TO WILLINGLY STAY BEHIND DESPITE THE VAST DIFFERENCE IN NUMBER..
OBVIOUSLY, THEY WILL BE MORE PERSISTENT.
PERSISTENT GUYS WON'T BECOME POPULAR, YOU KNOW!
WAH.
LORD LENI!

I AM NOT! I'M SORRY! I'M JUST DOING WHAT I USUALLY DO IN BATTLES!
WE MAY BE SUPERIOR IN NUMBERS, BUT YOU'RE LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN FAR TOO MUCH.
YOU REALLY ARE...
EH, WAH !!

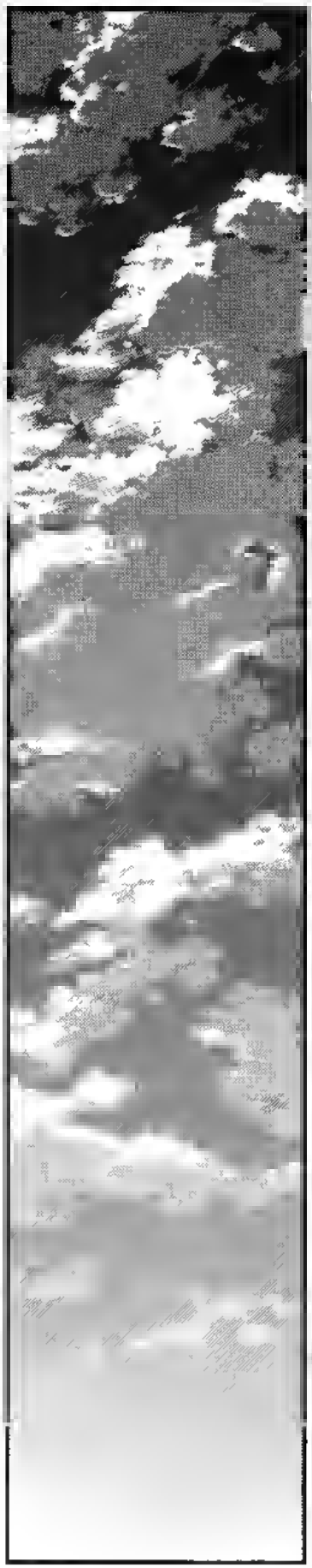
THERE ARE TOO MANY FAMILIAR FACES AMONGST THEM.
YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME AS WELL, AREN'T YOU, MISS SENOA?
UNFOR-TUNATELY.
I'VE ALREADY PARTED WITH SUCH THINGS.

HE'S GRANTING ME MY WISH.
HE SURE POSSESSES A STRONG SENSE OF DUTY.

HE'S REALLY PUSHING HARD.
PARDON ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT I THINK THAT PENETRATING THROUGH OUR ENTIRE TROOP IS BUT A SIMPLE TASK FOR HIM.
TRUE ENOUGH.
NOW, I FINALLY UNDER-STAND.

I NEVER HATED HIM.
HIS WAY OF LIVING...
HIS TALENTS ...
HE GATHERED PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL STATUS...
I ENVIED THAT RELIABLE SELF OF HIS.
I FELT WRETCHED FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO BE LIKE HIM...
I RESENTED MYSELF.

SHALL WE GET GOING?
YES.
BUT IN MY FINAL DAYS, I COULD FINALLY ACCEPT IT.
IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR.
MYSELF, ALONG WITH MY COURAGEOUS KNIGHTS ARE VERY PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE OUR MASTER UNTIL THE END.
YOUR MAJESTY.
AS IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR FOR ME.

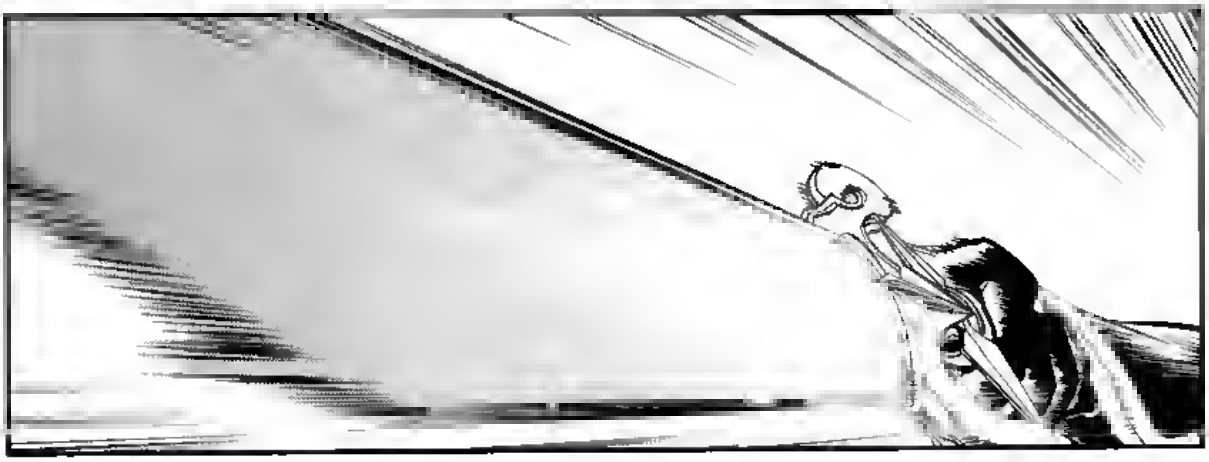


LET'S MEET AGAIN IN THE DEPTHS OF HELL.

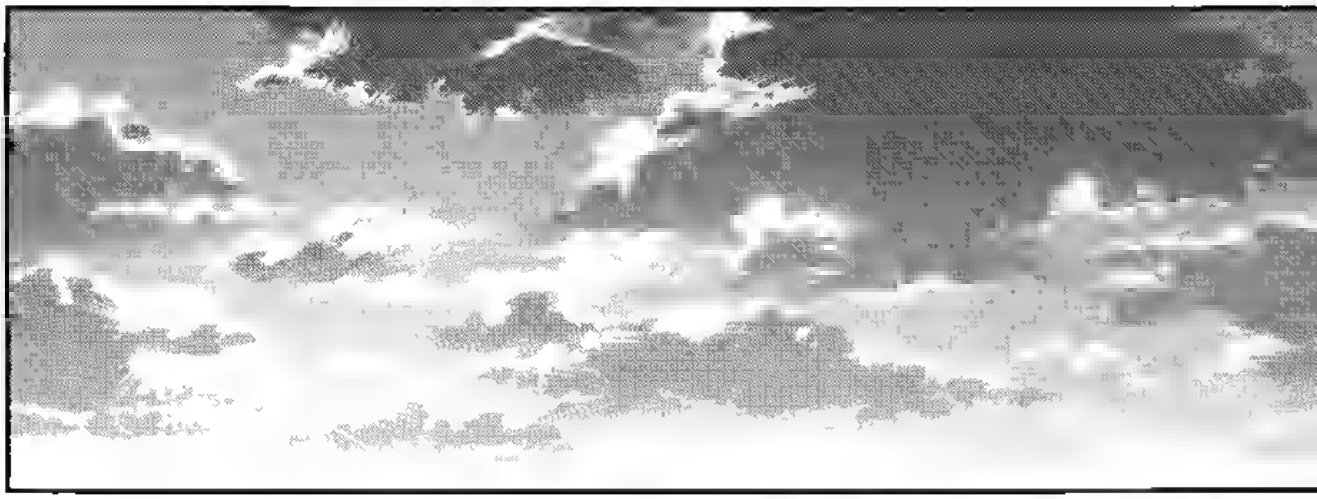
YOU CAME.

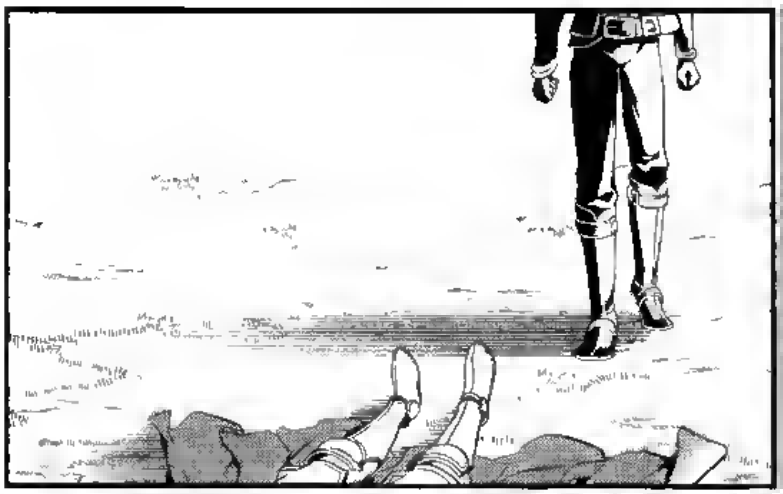
He's about to die yet he doesn't seem to waver at all.
What a strange person.

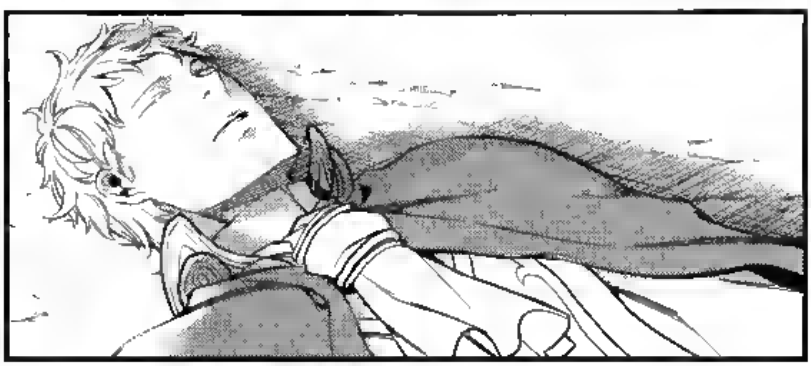
"A PERSON'S TRUE WORTH WILL BECOME EVIDENT WHEN HE IS HUNG BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH."
WHEN WAS IT...
THE TIME WHEN I HAD AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING AND I TOLD HIM...
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD EXPRESSION RIGHT THERE ...
SAPHIR.
I SEE.



It's as if...
I don't feel pain anymore.

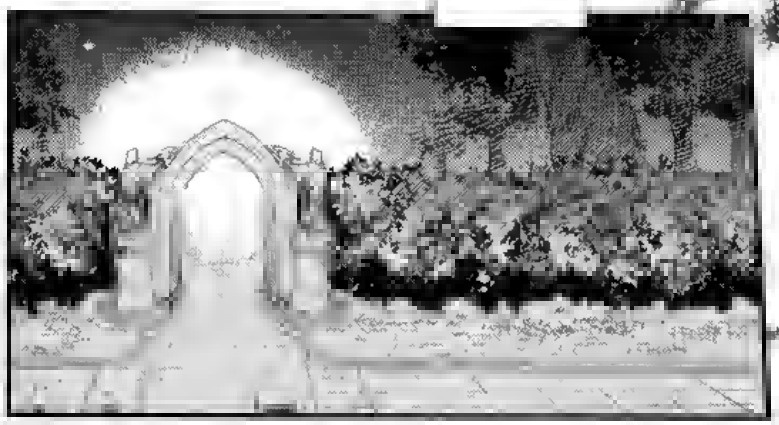






At this moment.
The battle for hegemony that dragged in the neighboring country Syandrys as well finally came to an end.

With this, enemies of Princess Shelfa no longer existed.



I CAN FINALLY MEET YOU AGAIN.
RAIN.

The Characters ミュールゲニアの人々 of Murgenia

レイン

平民出のサンクワール上将軍で主人公。本人曰く「世界最強の男」らしい。

ラルファス

サンクワール上将軍。建国祖の五家の一角。

ナイゼル

ラルファスの副官。物静かな騎士。

レ ニ

レインの副官で千人隊長。臆病な性格だが腕は確か。

セルフィー

見習い騎士の貧乏娘。レインの覇気を感じられる才能を持つ。ユーリと仲良し。

シェルファ

サンクワールの実質的次期君主。レインに好意を寄せる絶世の美少女。

キュンター

主に諜報や工作を担当する、レインの股肱の臣。常に苦い顔をしている。

グエン

ラルファスの副官。山賊のような容姿の巨漢。

セノア

レインの副官で千人隊長。レインの行動によく癇癪を起こしている。

ユーリ

ザーマインの元間諜。激しい給金交渉の末、レインの仲間になる。天真爛漫な元気っ娘。

ガサラム

かつて名を上げた騎士。過去にレインと関わりがあるらしいのだが…。

レイン
ラルファス連合軍

同盟締結、終戦！

サフィール×貴族連合軍
レイン×ラルファス連合軍 戦って全滅

サフィール

シャンドリス戦の敗北を機に悟りを開き、騎士としての最期をレインに託して散る

ルティック

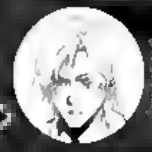
サフィールの招聘を受けて着任。戦術眼を持った指揮官だった。レイン達の前に騎士として散る

サンクワール -Sunkwo11-

シャンドリス -Syandrys-

フォルニーア

シャンドリスの皇帝。



ジョウ

シャンドリスの大将軍。

シング

フォルニーアの臣下で、古参の将軍。

セイル

穏やかな見掛けの若き将軍で騎士。剣技や魔法を巧みに使いこなす

ジュンナ

セイルの義妹。秘めた力が絶大な天才魔法使い。

ザルツ

シャンドリスの将軍。ジュンナに滅法弱い。